

# **Exodus 32**

## ***Don't Have A Cow***

May 16, 2021 – Rev. Rick Lyon

**1 Cor. 10:6-7, 11** - These things happened as examples for us... Don't be idolaters as some of them were. As it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.” These things happened to them as examples and were written down for our instruction.

### **Example #1 - Israel's Idolatry**

**Exodus 32:1-6** - Now when the people saw that Moses delayed coming down from the mountain, the people gathered together to Aaron, and said to him, “Come, make us gods that shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we don't know what has become of him.”

2 And Aaron said to them, “Break off the golden earrings which are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.”<sup>3</sup> So all the people broke off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them to Aaron.<sup>4</sup> And he received the gold from their hand, and he fashioned it with an engraving tool, and made a molded calf. Then they said, “This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!”

5 So when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made a proclamation and said, “Tomorrow is a feast to the Lord.”<sup>6</sup> Then they rose early on the next day, offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.

**An idol is anything that takes the place of God or that you value above God.**

**Characteristic #1 - Idols often reflect the culture you live in.**

**Acts 7:39** - In their hearts they turned back to Egypt.

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#### **Characteristic #2 - There's often an addictive nature to idols.**

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#### **Characteristic #3 - An idol obscures and competes with who God is.**

**v. 4-5** - Then they said, “*This* is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!”<sup>5</sup> So when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made a proclamation and said, “Tomorrow is a feast to the *Lord*.”

**Exodus 12:35-36** - The Israelites did as Moses instructed and asked the Egyptians for articles of silver and gold and clothing. And the LORD gave the people such favor in the sight of the Egyptians that they granted their request. In this way they plundered the Egyptians.

*"How can I tell if something is obscuring and competing for God's attention in my life? I worship it. I give it attention and time and money. I build an altar to it and I sacrifice the very best part of who I am to that thing."*

**v. 7-10** - And the Lord said to Moses, “Go, get down! For your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt have corrupted themselves.<sup>8</sup> They've turned aside *quickly* out of the way which I commanded them. They've made themselves a molded calf, and worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, ‘This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!’”<sup>9</sup> And the Lord said to Moses, “I've seen this people, and indeed it's a stiff-necked people!<sup>10</sup> Now therefore, let Me alone, that My *wrath* may burn hot against them and I may consume them. And I'll make of you a great nation.”

Idolatry is a big deal to God.

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#### **Example #2 - Moses' Intercession**

**v. 11-14** - Then Moses pleaded with the Lord his God, and said: “Lord, why does Your wrath burn hot against Your people whom You've brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? <sup>12</sup> Why should the Egyptians speak, and say, ‘*He brought them out to harm them, to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth*’? Turn from Your fierce wrath, and relent from this harm to Your people. <sup>13</sup> Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants, to whom You swore by Your own self, and said to them, ‘I'll multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven; and all this land that I've spoken of I give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’” <sup>14</sup> So the Lord relented from the harm which He said He would do to His people.

**Psalm 106:19-22** - At Horeb they made a calf and worshiped an idol made of gold. They exchanged their glorious God for an image of a bull, which eats grass. They forgot the God who saved them, who had done great things in Egypt, miracles in the land of Ham and awesome deeds by the Red Sea.

**James 4:8** - *Draw near to God*, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world.

**Joshua 1:8** - This Book of the Law must not depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it.

**v. 15-20** - And Moses turned and went down from the mountain, and the two tablets of the Testimony were in his hand. The tablets were written on both sides; on the one side and on the other they were written. <sup>16</sup> Now the tablets were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God engraved on the tablets.  
<sup>17</sup> And when Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said to Moses, “There is a noise of war in the camp.”

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<sup>18</sup> But he said: “It is not the noise of the shout of victory, Nor the noise of the cry of defeat, But the sound of singing that I hear.” (They were having a party!)

<sup>19</sup> So it was, as soon as he came near the camp, that he saw the calf and the dancing. So Moses’ anger became hot, and he cast the tablets out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain. <sup>20</sup> Then he took the calf which they had made, burned it in the fire, and ground it to powder; and he scattered it on the water and made the children of Israel drink it.

**Romans 13:14** - Make no provisions for the flesh to gratify its desires.

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### **Example #3 - Aaron's Excuses**

**v. 21-22** - Moses said to Aaron, “What did this people do to you that you've brought so great a sin upon them?” So Aaron said, “Don't let the anger of my lord become hot.” You know *the people*, that they're set on evil.” For they said to me, ‘Make us gods that shall go before us; as for this *Moses*, the man who brought us out of the land of Egypt, we don't know what's become of him.’

**v. 24** - And I said to them, ‘Whoever has any gold, let them break it off.’ So they gave it to me, and I cast it into the fire, and this calf came out.”

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### **Example #4 - Moses the Mediator**

**v. 25-26** - Now when Moses saw that the people were unrestrained (for Aaron had not restrained them, to their shame among their enemies), <sup>26</sup> then Moses stood in the entrance of the camp, and said, “Whoever is on the Lord’s side—come to me!”

**Joel 2:12-13** - "Even now," declares the LORD, "return to Me with all your heart..." Return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love. He is eager to relent and not punish.

**v. 28-32** - So the sons of Levi did according to the word of Moses. And about three thousand men of the people fell that day. <sup>30</sup> Now it came to pass on the next day that Moses said to the people, “You've committed a great sin. So now I'll go up to the Lord; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin.” <sup>31</sup> Then Moses returned to the Lord and said, “Oh, these people have committed a great sin, and have made for themselves a god of gold! <sup>32</sup> Yet now, if You will forgive their sin—but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You've written.”

**Revelation 21:27** - Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

**Psalms 69:28** - Let them be blotted out of the Book of the Living.

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**Example #1 - Israel's \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 1-10)**

Page 5 of 7

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**An idol is anything that takes the place of God or that you value above God.**

**Three characteristics of an idol.**

**Characteristic #1 - Idols often reflect \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Characteristic #2 - There's often an \_\_\_\_\_ to idols.**

**Characteristic #3 - An idol \_\_\_\_\_ with who God is.**

**Example #2 - Moses' \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 11-20)**

**Example #3 - Aaron's \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 21-24)**

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**Example #4 - Moses the \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 25-32)**