

**THE LIFE  
OF MOSES**  
EXPERIENCE THE  
IMPOSSIBLE

**#26: WHAT IS YOUR  
GOLDEN CALF?**  
EXODUS 32  
JIM HINTON

What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us...We tend by a secret law of the soul to move toward our mental image of God.

A.W. Tozer

## I. ANOTHER LOOK AT IDOLATRY—EXODUS 20:3-5

1. What idolatry is—anything that takes the place of the true God in my life.
2. Why idolatry is important—I will inevitably become like the “god” I worship.

## II. ISRAEL WORSHIPS THE GOLDEN BULL—EXODUS 32:1-35

1. The true God had revealed Himself (Exodus 1-31).
  - In miracles
  - In person
  - In His Covenant

Read Exodus 24:7-11

2. The people demand a new “god” (Exodus 32:1).
3. Aaron creates a golden bull (v.2-4).
4. Aaron declares a festival to Jehovah (v.5).
5. The people engage in pagan worship (v.6).

The cow gave no law and demanded no obedience. It had no wrath or justice or holiness to be feared. It was deaf, dumb, and [powerless]. But at least it could not intrude on their fun and call them to judgment. This was a religion designed by men, practiced by men, and ultimately useless for men.

R.C. Sproul

6. God becomes furious over this unfaithfulness (v.7-10).
7. Moses intercedes for his nation (v.11-14).
8. Moses deals with the people (v.15-29).
  - The idol is destroyed (v.20).
  - Aaron is reprimanded (v.21-24).
  - The people are judged (v.25-29,35).

### **III. WAYS TO OVERCOME IDOLATRY**

Remember our history, friends, and be warned. All our ancestors were led by the providential Cloud and taken miraculously through the Sea. They went through the waters, in a baptism like ours, as Moses led them from enslaving death to salvation life. They all ate and drank identical food and drink, meals provided daily by God. They drank from the Rock, God's fountain for them that stayed with them wherever they were. And the Rock was Christ. But just experiencing God's wonder and grace didn't seem to mean much—most of them were defeated by temptation during the hard times in the desert, and God was not pleased. The same thing could happen to us. We must be on guard so that we never get caught up in wanting our own way as they did. And we must not turn our religion into a circus as they did—"First the people partied, then they threw a dance." We must not be sexually promiscuous—they paid for that, remember, with twenty-three thousand deaths in one day!

1 Corinthians 10:1-8 (TMSG)

#### **1. Identify my idols**

- What am I passionate about?
- What do I think about most in my free time?
- Where do I spend most of my time?
- How do I spend my money?
- Who do I turn to for support and security?
- What has the ultimate authority in my life?

Do not put your trust in idols or make metal images of gods for yourselves. I am the LORD your God.  
Leviticus 19:4 (NLT)

#### **2. Get rid of the idols.**

So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world.

Colossians 3:5 (NLT)

#### **3. Love God more.**

Like our ancestors, we have sinned. We have done wrong! We have acted wickedly! Our ancestors in Egypt were not impressed by the LORD's miraculous deeds. They soon forgot his many acts of kindness to them. Instead, they rebelled against him at the Red Sea...Yet how quickly they forgot what he had done! They wouldn't wait for his counsel! In the wilderness their desires ran wild, testing God's patience in that dry wasteland. So he gave them what they asked for, but he sent a plague along with it...The people made a calf at Mount Sinai; they bowed before an image made of gold. They traded their glorious God for a statue of a grass-eating bull. They forgot God, their savior, who had done such great things in Egypt— such wonderful things in the land of Ham, such awesome deeds at the Red Sea.

Psalms 106:6-7,13-15,19-22 (NLT)