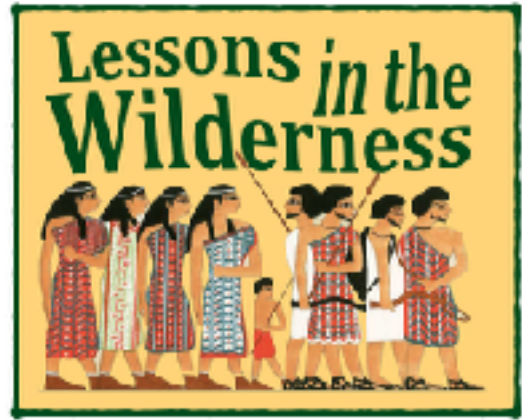


The Golden Calf

GOD CALLS US TO REMAIN FAITHFUL

God brought the Israelites out of Egypt to be a people for His own possession. Yet while Moses was on the mountain communing with God, the people quickly slipped back into old patterns and created a golden calf to worship. God calls us to remain faithful, yet we are prone to backsliding. When we remain steadfast and are patient in obedience, this will lead to our blessing and transformation.



Exodus 32

1 When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, “Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.” **2** Aaron said to them, “Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.” **3** So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. **4** He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!” **5** When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, “Tomorrow shall be a festival to the Lord.” **6** They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.



Why Idolatry?

So why did the Israelites abandon the worship of the true God for the worship of an idol?

Perhaps it was simply because idolatry was the only form of worship they had ever known. Whenever we are anxious, worried, or fearful, we tend to fall back into familiar impulsive habits.

But there may also be something deeper here.

Perhaps the Israelites were fearful of following a God they did not know to a Promised Land they could not see. God does indeed have plans for our future, but this requires us to boldly follow God into the unknown.

over...

Grace: God's Answer to Our Failures

Grace has transforming power. Rather than punishing us for our sins, God extends his grace to us. This grace is the foundation of our transformation. Grace needs to work itself into our entire life. Below are three graces. Think about how one leads to the other.

God's Grace to us
Our Grace to ourselves
Our Grace to others

Questions *for reflection or group discussion:*

Do you find it easy or hard to show grace toward yourself?

Can you remember a time when someone showed grace to you?

How can we prepare ourselves to be ready to extend grace to others?



Your Notes *what God is saying to you:*
