

March 12, 2023
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"The Golden Calf and the God of Mercy"

Exodus 32:1-14

Memory Verse: 1 Timothy 2:5

Big Idea: Idolatry arises when people forget the goodness of God, provoking God's wrath which can only be satisfied by God's mediator.

I. God Must Be Worshiped the Way He Desires to Be Worshiped (32:1-6)

- A. God has revealed himself and his expectations to his people. God made them to be his people and entered into covenant with them.
- B. "All the words that the LORD has spoken we will do" (Exodus 24:3).
- C. How could this happen? They forgot the goodness of God.
- D. They forgot the goodness of God's provision, leadership, salvation, and law.
- E. Psalm 106:19-23
- F. Set your mind's attention and heart's affection on the one true God and praise him for who he is and what he has done in Jesus Christ.

II. God Knows and Is Provoked by Idolatry (32:7-10)

- A. An idol is anything we substitute for God.
- B. An idol is anything you love or fear more than you love or fear God.
- C. Idolatry provokes the wrath of God.
- D. "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23).
- E. "But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed" (Romans 2:5).
- F. Don't be stiff-necked.

III. God Shows Compassion to His People because of His Chosen Mediator (32:11-14)

- A. "The Glory of Israel will not lie or have regret, for he is not a man, that he should have regret" (1 Samuel 15:29).
- B. "God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?" (Numbers 23:19).
- C. Moses pleads for God to have mercy on his sinful people.
- D. Moses appealed to God's fatherly affection (34:11).
- E. Moses appealed to God's public reputation (34:12).
- F. Moses appealed to God's everlasting covenant (34:13).
- G. "The Hebrew verb (naham) does not always mean to change one's mind, but can also mean to be moved to pity/to have compassion for others" (John Currid).
- H. God had mercy on his people.

Conclusion

- A. The message of the gospel is that God has sent us a mediator.
- B. John 3:16
- C. 1 Timothy 2:5
- D. The Gospel Definition