

### Reflection for July 28

This people has indeed committed a grave sin in making a god of gold for themselves!

If you blow the dust off of your Bible and flip through some of the books in the Old Testament, you'll find that there is a common theme that keeps coming up again and again. Whenever something goes wrong with the Israelites, idolatry is to blame. Over and over again God tells His people to get rid of their idols.

In the book of Genesis, God told Jacob to get rid of his household gods but his wife Rachel, had stolen them from her father and hid them. The reign of king Solomon was brought to an end when he began building places of worship for the idols and gods that his numerous wives worshiped. In the book of Maccabees, Judas and his companions pray for those who died in battle wearing idols. The list could go on and on.

Now, I don't think any of us are making a golden calf or worshiping false gods like the Israelites did but perhaps there are some things in our lives that we treat like idols. At the basis of idolatry is substituting something else for God – substituting the creature for the Creator. And this is what we do when we sin – we choose something less than God and establish it in the rightful place where God should be in our lives. The reason why God commands His people, all throughout Salvation History, to get rid of their idols is because He knows that the human heart will be satisfied with nothing less than God Himself. He knows that all idols, all sin, while they might give a fleeting moment of pleasure or satisfaction, will ultimately leave us wanting more. The fulfillment of all our desires rests in Him alone.

As we prepare to receive our Lord today, let us ask Him for the grace to know what idols exist in our own lives and that they might be uprooted so that we may enthrone Him in our hearts.