



Men's Huddle
October 15, 2009
Exodus 32
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Introduction

A. Why Exodus 32?

- Godly men take _____ seriously. (Gen. 4:7)
- Spiritual men know our _____ are by far our biggest problem. Your biggest problem in life is _____. (Jer. 17:9)
- Healthy men give themselves to _____ sin (Rms. 8:13)

B. What is the context?

This is around 1500 B.C. Israel is in the wilderness transitioning from centuries of slavery in Egypt, to freedom in the Promised Land. Moses has been on top of Mount Sinai for 40 days (Ex. 24:18) receiving the Ten Commandments. But Israel grew restless and took matters into her own hands. Can you relate?

C. How are we approaching this?

Men are _____ lovers. Left to ourselves, we drift toward _____; we all want to create _____ who are according to our liking. Therefore, do not read this story as if it

were ancient history. This is a biblical diagnosis of the human heart. When we see the Israelites at the base of the mountain, we see ourselves.

Five Moves of Idolatry

1. We _____ our idol to make us feel better. (Ex. 32:1-4)

a. Aaron didn't think of this as a _____ for God but as a _____ to God. Aaron wasn't _____ he was _____. (cf vs. 5)

b. This was born in _____ with God (on the part of the people) and _____ accommodation (on the part of Aaron). Idolatry here is a result of both expectations not being met and impatience.

c. This is a full frontal _____ of the _____ commandment. (Ex. 20:4-6)

d. In biblical times, idols were made by _____, today they are fashioned in the _____. We don't _____ God, we _____ other things ahead of God.

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| Definition: an idol is a person, place, thing, or dream you want more than God. It can start as a legitimate desire, but that desire then swells and trumps our relationship with God and dilutes and denies God's Word. So idolatry can be putting God second to good things or bad things. It's anything that stands between us and God. |
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Examples?

2. We _____ or _____ to our idol. (Ex. 32:5-6)

a. This is when, like Israel, you _____ and _____ around the idol. You start to pay your dues. Note: _____ comes first, _____ later.

b. The goal of every idol, and ultimately _____ is behind every idol, is _____. We must choose: are we going to be _____ by the living God or _____ by something else? Either way we are not our own. But one way leads to _____; the other to idolatry.

3. We enjoy our idols (vs. 6)

a. 1 Cor. 10:7-8

b. Here _____ really starts to change. Principle: Once you _____ your God your behavior starts to change. "Indulge in revelry" has _____ connotations (cf. Gen. 26:8, 39:14, 17). All the idols (gods) of Egypt were tolerant of sexual freedom.

c. Did the verse 7 experience feel good to the Israelites? _____ Was it right? _____

4. We are deceived by our idols (Ex. 32:21-24)

a. God _____ idolatry. Here he threatens to destroy Israel, but Moses prays and God "relents".

b. However, look at what has happened to Aaron in 21-24. First he blames the _____ (22), then he blames the _____ (24). In other words, idolatry leads us to _____. We lie to _____ (this just happened) and we lie to _____.

5. We must repent of our idolatry (Ex. 32:25-29)

a. The Levites _____; others did not. Repentance is _____ from sin.

b. Repentance involves:

-- _____ our idols

-- _____ our idolatry

-- _____ from our idols

-- _____ our idols with biblical behavior

born in our devotion to Christ. When we focus on God, the idol eventually loses its power. I Thess. 1:9

-- _____ help with our idols

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| Luther said the Christian life is one of continual repentance. Like pulling weeds, repentance is an ongoing process. |
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Remember: we are idol-lovers. God is an idol-hater. To know what is _____ place is the essence of life. To put yourself in _____ place is the key to significance in life.

Questions:

1. What is the difference between working hard and making work an idol? When does a hard working man become a workaholic? Why?
2. How do we declaw idols in our lives? How do we grind them up and destroy them?
3. What is the one main take away for you?