

The Mosaic Covenant
The Portion We Can't Proclaim

Sunday, May 3rd, 2026

Exodus 32:1-9

When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, "Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him." ² Aaron answered them, "Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me." ³ So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. ⁴ He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, "These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt." ⁵ When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, "Tomorrow there will be a festival to the LORD." ⁶ So the next day the people rose early and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings. Afterward they sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.

⁷ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt. ⁸ They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. They have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have said, 'These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.' ⁹ "I have seen these people," the LORD said to Moses, "and they are a stiff-necked people.

1. **The Fragility of the "Amen".**

2. **The Golden Calf-Making God "Manageable".**

3. **The Mediator in the Gap.**

Conclusion: The story of the Golden Calf ends with a broken covenant and a scattered people. But the story of the Gospel ends with a New Covenant and an invited people. While Israel stood in the valley trying to fashion a god out of gold, God was looking ahead to a hill called Calvary, where He would provide a Savior out of grace.

LIFE GROUP LESSON

The Portion We Can't Proclaim

Week of May 3rd, 2026- May 9th, 2026

Ice Breaker: What is one positive habit or goal you've found difficult to maintain lately?

Read Exodus 32:1-14.

4. What was missing that caused the people to turn to their own way?
5. What does this tell you about what we need to stay faithful?
6. How important is it to have connected and faithful leaders?
7. What did Israel plan to do? (v.1) Why?
8. What did Aaron instruct the people to do? (vs.2-3)
9. What did Aaron do with the gold? (v.4) Why would he do this?
10. What did the people say? (v.4) Were they completely dismissing God or trying to harness Him into something they could see?
11. Look to Aaron's response; who are they having a festival to? (v.5)
12. What is wrong with their actions? (v.6)
13. Read Exodus 20:2-6. What were the commands and what did they do?
14. When God feels distant, what do *we tend to do* to make Him "manageable"? Why? How have we made a "golden calf" in your faith walk?
15. What did God tell Moses? (v.7) How so?
16. What did God call out against Israel? (v.8)
17. What does God say about their willingness to obey? (v.9)
18. Read Exodus 19:8, 24:7-8. What did the people proclaim? Do you think they meant it? If so, why turn so quickly?
19. How does this reveal the fragile state of our own Amen? *Do you mean it when you say it?* What happens from saying it and living it?
20. What have you learned about good intentions and your faith walk?
21. Read Exodus 32:10-14. How does Moses respond to God's anger? What is his role for Israel? Who does Moses point to?
22. Read Isaiah 53:6 and 1 Timothy 2:5-6. What did Jesus do for us and what is His role?
23. Read 2 Corinthians 1:20. Who is our Amen in? Why does this matter?
24. Read Habakkuk 2:3. What are we told? If it's a longtime coming does that mean God has failed? What can we do to keep from turning and doubting?
25. What do you see about God's heart and faithfulness in this account?

Point to ponder: Our hope is not in our ability to keep our promises; it is in the One who kept them for us.