

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

December 2013

Moses: Learning To Lead God's Way

Lesson #11: Idols

INTRODUCTION

What idols do we worship today? (see also Daniel 5:23) Why?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read Exodus 32, 33:1-6

1. If this study was scripted for TV, it would have 5 scenes. What are their titles?
 2. Scene 1 (32:1-6)
 3. Scene 2 (32:7-14)
 4. Scene 3 (32:15-20)
 5. Scene 4 (32:21-35)
 6. Scene 5 (33:1-6)
2. Scene 1 - How long was Moses away? (24:18) Why did this upset the people so much? Where did the jewelry come from? (*Note: the bull was probably Apis – the bull god worshipped in Egypt, especially at Memphis.*) How did their actions violate the Ten Commandments? (Dt 5:6-21) Why did they stoop to making a graven image? Who was involved? Where did the people learn to worship this way? Isa 42:17 What was Aaron's role? Who got blamed for making the calf?
3. Scene 2 - How do God and Moses feel about the calf? Why does God "back down"? What about God doesn't change? v. Ex 32:34; Nu 23:19)
4. Scene 3 - What was Moses' frame of mind coming down the mountain? Why might his response be justified? How would you have felt if you were forced to drink the water?
5. Scene 4 - What was Aaron's main concern? Moses'? God's? Why was the killing of the people a "blessing"? (v. 29) What was Moses' role in setting things right? In what sense is he acting as an army general? A prophet? A priest? A sacrificial lamb? What are the elements of his intercession before God? (31-32) If you were an Israelite, why would you like Moses interceding for you? (30-34) What options does God leave open for himself? How is does this show that God is both merciful *and* just? How is that an encouragement? How effective are *your* prayers?
6. Scene 5 - Why does God send an angel to be with the people instead of Himself? (v. 3; Heb 1:14) What was their reaction? (v. 4, 6) If God does not go with them to the wilderness, what are their prospects?

APPLICATION

- What "golden calf" are you worshipping today? How does God feel about it?
- How do *you* respond to Moses' call of verse 26? What does that look like in your life?

No temptation has seized you except that which is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. 1 Cor 10:13