

Surviving Rebellion

Exodus 32:1-7

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¹ 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. . . .”

notes

sermon notes

MAIN IDEA:

Our _____ sets the stage for God's _____.

GOAL #1: SEE _____

1. See your _____.

2. See your _____.

GOAL #2: SEE YOUR _____

1. "God, you have a beautiful _____."

2. "God, you make beautiful _____."

BOTTOM LINE:

God helps us locate the _____ in the middle of our _____.

my next step is to

- Reach out to Christ as my Savior.
- Acknowledge an area of impatience or idolatry in my life right now.
- Pray for God's grace to obliterate the guilt and shame my feel.

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BUILD

- What are one or two things about Pastor Larry's sermon on Sunday that stood out to you?
- Think back over the last couple of weeks. Can you think of a time when you felt impatient? This could be a small thing (like "Why does the light at Sandy Lake and 121 always take six minutes to turn green?") or a big thing (like "Can I really wait three more months for The Bachelor to start again?!?"). What was it about this situation that made you impatient? How did your impatience impact your attitude and your actions?
- What is the best advice you've ever received about how to respond when you're feeling impatient?

DIG

- Read Exodus 32:1. Does it surprise you that the Israelites are so impatient? Why or why not? Is there an area in your life where it feels like "Moses is so long coming down the mountain?" In what ways are you tempted to give in to impatience in your life?
- Read Exodus 32:2-4. When the Israelites lost faith in God and Moses, they built themselves an idol. Tim Keller defines an idol as "anything more important to you than God." What are some ways you are tempted to replace God with an idol? What people, possessions, or goals in your life do you sometimes treat as more important than God?
- The Israelites have just seen God miraculously rescue them by parting the Red Sea. Why might they still have a hard time trusting God and Moses? Do you ever have a hard time trusting God or the leaders he's placed in your life? Why do you think this is the case?
- Read Psalm 77:1-2, 10-12. When the psalmist is in a tough situation, what strategy does he use in verses 10-12 to strengthen his faith? What principles about how to increase our trust in God can we learn from this model? Have you ever used this approach personally? If so, what impact did it

have on your outlook? How can we help each other use this approach?

- Take a minute to skim Psalm 105 and Psalm 106. The psalmist goes to great lengths to remember and remind his readers of all the great things God has done for them and their people. If you were writing your own version of these Psalms today, what would be on the list? What stories would you tell of the good things God has done for you and “your people”?

TRAIN

- Read Exodus 32:1 again. How should Aaron have responded to the people? What options did he have other than making an idol? Is it possible that you have the opportunity to “be someone’s Aaron”? In other words, are there people in your life who are bringing their struggles to you for help? In what practical ways could you point them to Jesus instead of an idol?
- What practical steps can you take this week to build your trust in God? What is one way you can remember God’s faithfulness? What is one way you can remind someone else of His faithfulness?
- How else is God speaking to you through this week’s sermon and today’s conversation?
- In what specific ways can our Grow Group pray for you this week? What commitments is God leading you to make as a result of this conversation that we can support you in through prayer?

DIGGING DEEPER:

- Read Jeremiah 17:5-8. Spend a few moments this week thinking honestly about who/what you trust the most. Confess the ways you haven’t fully trusted God this week and pray that He would teach you to rely more fully on Him.
- Read Genesis 25:19-34. How did Esau trade the ultimate for the immediate? In what ways are you tempted to do the same?