

Text: Exodus 32:1-7, 17-24, 30-35

Title: The Golden Calf

Teacher: Tim Rice

Surrender through Prayer:

Surrender through prayers for Illumination and Transformation, asking that Jesus would meet with you in this time.

Engage with the Sermon

Read the passage together

By Exodus 31 the people of Israel had spent nearly a year at the foot of Mount Sinai receiving the law, instruction on worship and practice, and how to properly relate to God. After 40 days of waiting for Moses to come down the mountain the people grew impatient and turned their hearts toward idols. Trying to seem obedient in their worship of God, they made a golden calf fashioned after a god of Egypt, and bowed down to it. In a massive act of disobedience and betrayal to God they bowed down to an idol and called it worship. As Tim said, in our sin and brokenness we look to idols (\$, approval, love, health, beauty...etc.) rather than God, and even worship them alongside Him. We deny their futility, are drawn to their empty promises, and fall prey to their inability to deliver and truly save. As Moses offered to be killed in Israel's place, it is only the grace and mercy of the gospel that offers any true hope, true deliverance, and even true forgiveness and healing in the face of our idol worship. Only God can deliver what any idols presume to offer. And only through Him can we find the fulfillment, worship and salvation we truly seek, and lay down the idols in our hearts again and again.

Reflection Questions:

1. *Tim said idols over-promise and under-deliver.*
 - ***In what ways have you allowed yourself to believe the promises of idols?***
 - ***Which idols have the most prominent spot in your heart next to God?***

2. *The absurdity of an idol is that we would take a created thing that we have control over, like wood; burn it, build with it, and cook with it, and then fashion an idol from it and let it have power over us. As Tim said, in our pride we doubt God's word, and in our fear we dread that we are not in control.*
 - ***If you look at each idol around you, what is absurd about worshipping it?***
 - ***And yet, how has pride and fear led you to let idols have (even partial) control over you?***

3. *Tim Keller writes, "In order to deny God's control of our lives, each of us chooses a created thing or things to live for and worship instead.*
 - ***Why don't we want God to control our lives?***
 - ***What would it look like to repent of your idols and worship God alone?***

WORSHIP AND PRAYER:

A.C.T.S.

(Spend time in prayer and worship as you consider Adoring God the Father, Confessing your sin and weakness, giving thanks to Jesus, and asking Holy Spirit to transform you. Use this as a time to talk to God about what's been revealed in your heart from this sermon.)

1. ADORATION *(The Father)*

Adore and Worship God for His attributes and actions

2. CONFESSION *(Me)*

Spend time Confessing sin and ways in which you are finite and limited

3. THANKSGIVING *(Jesus)*

Give thanks to Jesus for his salvation (past, present, future)

4. SUPPLICATION *(Holy Spirit)*

Ask Holy Spirit to transform you in specific ways

5. Prepare for Gospel Community *(My Neighbor)*

Pray for those who are on your heart, that God would use you to impact them with His gospel message.

Prayer Items

1. Worship the LORD for His holiness as our Creator and Owner. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit that He is glorious and more worthy of our love and trust than anyone or anything.
2. How have you lived impatiently and holding out hope in the works of your own hands rather than trusting in the Lord? Confess your idolatry to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and to free you from slavery to created things.
3. Give thanks to Jesus for the miracle of His Grace, getting something done that no one else could. Thank Him that where idols are finite; Jesus is infinite and that where idols enslave us, only Jesus redeems and sets us free.
4. Who do you know that is enslaved to the things of this world? Pray for them, asking the Lord to have mercy on them (as He has had on you) and to lead them to Jesus so that He can redeem them.
5. Ask the Holy Spirit to bear in you the fruit of love, especially for Him vs. the things of this world. Pray that He would help you to see Jesus' surpassing worth compared to anything else that you've ever wanted.