

Moses: Golden Calf

Exodus 32

- Aaron did what the people WANTED instead of doing what they NEEDED.
- **The story of the golden calf tells us more than what happened; it tells us what happens.** (1 Cor. 10:6, 7, 11),

The lessons we learn from Israel's unholy cow

1. ***We fall into sin when we do what God tells us not to do.***
 - We think we can overcome sin just by stopping doing something.
 - But what our outward sins reveal is the true inward condition of our hearts.
 - Sin is not so much what we do as what we are.
2. ***We fall into sin when we do not trust God to know what he's doing.***
 - Part of the cause of the sin of the golden calf was Israel's impatience with God, their unwillingness to trust in his timing.
 - Israel's distrust also extended to Moses, the man whom God had appointed to serve as their prophet.
3. ***We fall into sin when we fail to trust that God knows what he's doing and try to work things out on our own.***
 - By setting the agenda, what we are really trying to do is wrest control from God, when what we ought to do instead is wait for him to work.
4. ***We fall into sin by doing things our way rather than his way.***
 - Sin is more than disobedience and distrust—it is distortion.
 - We become like what we worship; we also become like *how* we worship.
 - Only God's way to worship would preserve his divine majesty.
 - Only God's way to worship would show how sin could be forgiven.

- Only God's way to worship would point people to Christ by putting the gospel on display.

5. ***We fall into sin when we do what is popular instead of what is right***
 - What mattered to him most was not what God said, but what the people would say.
6. ***We fall into sin by forgetting what God has done for us and going back to our old wicked ways***
 - The Israelites forgot what God had done and returned to their old wicked ways.
 - It is not enough to know what God says. The Israelites knew that, and it still didn't save them.