

# Choose Today and Dedicate Yourself to the Lord

Exodus 32:1 And when the people saw that **Moses delayed to come down** out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together **unto Aaron**, and said unto him, **Up, make us gods**, which shall go before us; for *as for* this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, **we wot not what is become of him.** 2 And **Aaron said** unto them, Break off the golden earrings, which *are* in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring *them* unto me. 3 And all the people brake off the golden earrings which *were* in their ears, and brought *them* unto Aaron. 4 And **he received them** at their hand, and **fashioned** it with a graving tool, **after he had made it a molten calf**: and they said, These *be* thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. 5 And when **Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it**; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, To morrow *is* a **feast to the Lord.** 6 And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt

offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.

7 And the Lord said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, **have corrupted themselves:** 8 They have **turned aside** quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These *be* thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. 9 And the Lord said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, **it is a stiffnecked people:** 10 Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and **I will make of thee a great nation.** 11 And **Moses besought the Lord** his God, and said, Lord, why doth thy wrath wax hot against thy people, which thou hast brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great power, and with a mighty hand? 12 Wherefore should the Egyptians speak, and say, For mischief did he bring them out, to slay them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth? Turn from thy fierce wrath, and repent of this evil

against thy people. **13** Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, thy servants, to whom thou swarest by thine own self, and saidst unto them, I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have spoken of will I give unto your seed, and they shall inherit *it* for ever. **14** And the Lord repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people.

**15** And Moses turned, and went down from the mount, and the **two tables of the testimony were in his hand:** the tables *were* written on both their sides; on the one side and on the other *were* they written. **16** And **the tables were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God,** graven upon the tables. **17** And when Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said unto Moses, *There is a noise of war in the camp.* **18** And he said, *It is not the voice of them that shout for mastery, neither is it the voice of them that cry for being overcome: but the noise of them that sing do I hear.* **19** And it came to pass, as soon as he came nigh unto the camp, that he saw the calf, and the dancing: and Moses' anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount. **20** And he took the calf which they had made,

and burnt *it* in the fire, and ground *it* to powder, and strawed *it* upon the water, and made the children of Israel drink *of it*. 21 And **Moses said unto Aaron**, What did this people unto thee, that thou hast brought so great a sin upon them? 22 And Aaron said, Let not the anger of my lord wax hot: thou knowest the people, that **they are set on mischief**. 23 For they said unto me, Make us gods, which shall go before us: for *as for* this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him. 24 And I said unto them, Whosoever hath any gold, let them break *it* off. So they gave *it* me: then I cast it into the fire, and **there came out this calf**. 25 And when Moses saw that the people *were* naked; (for Aaron had made them naked unto *their* shame among their enemies:) 26 Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, **Who is on the Lord's side?** *let him come* unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him. 27 And he said unto them, Thus saith the Lord God of Israel,

**Put every man his sword by his side, and go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay every man his brother, and every man his companion, and every man his**

**neighbour.** 28 And the children of Levi did according to the word of Moses: and there fell of the people that day about three thousand men. 29 For Moses had said,

**Consecrate yourselves to day to the Lord,** even every man upon his son, and upon his brother; that he may bestow upon you a blessing this day.

30 And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses said unto the people, **Ye have sinned a great**

**sin:** and now I will go up unto the Lord; peradventure I shall make an atonement for your sin. 31 And Moses returned unto the Lord, and said, Oh, this people have

**sinned a great sin,** and have made them gods of gold. 32 Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin—; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written. 33 And the Lord said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book. 34 Therefore now go, lead the people unto *the place* of which I have spoken unto thee: behold, mine Angel shall go before thee: nevertheless in the day when I visit I will visit their sin upon them. 35 And the Lord plagued the people, because they made the calf, which Aaron made.

## 1. A great leadership failure

- a. Moses, the regular leader, has not come down 1 And when the people saw that **Moses delayed to come down** out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together **unto Aaron,** and said unto him, **Up, make us gods,** which shall go before us; for *as for* this Moses, the man that

brought us up out of the land of Egypt, **we wot not what is become of him.**

- i. Moses is still up in the mount with God
  - ii. Aaron knows God in a very special way
  - iii. He has seen God do great things
  - iv. What could have caused Aaron to fail this way
- b. Maybe an understanding of what happen in Aaron's life
- i. Maybe it was his indirect relationship with the Lord  
**Exodus 4:14** And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses, and he said, *Is not Aaron the Levite thy brother? I know that he can speak well. And also, behold, he cometh forth to meet thee: and when he seeth thee, he will be glad in his heart.* **15**  
And **thou shalt speak unto him, and put words in his mouth:** and I will be with thy mouth, and with his mouth, and will teach you what ye shall do. **16** And **he shall be thy spokesman** unto the people: and he shall be, *even* he shall be to thee instead of a mouth, and **thou shalt be to him instead of God.**

ii. This is what it looked like [Exodus 4:29](#) And **Moses and Aaron went** and gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel: [30](#) And **Aaron spake all the words which the Lord had spoken unto Moses,** and did the signs in the sight of the people. [7:2](#) Thou shalt speak all that I command thee: and **Aaron thy brother shall speak unto Pharaoh,** that he send the children of Israel out of his land. [7:19](#) And the **Lord spake unto Moses, Say unto Aaron,** Take thy rod, and stretch out thine hand upon the waters of Egypt, upon their streams, upon their rivers, and upon their ponds, and upon all their pools of water, that they may become blood; and *that* there may be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in *vessels of wood,* and in *vessels of stone.*

iii. Could it be that Aaron got his leadership from Moses



1. Now Moses was gone
2. Aaron had not been thinking for himself
3. Aaron wasn't receiving directly from the Lord
4. Aaron depended on the strength of another man when he should have depended on the Lord

iv. Where are you in your walk with the Lord?

1. Do you look to certain men too much?
  - a. Your parents, friends, pastor
  - b. Do you follow the lead of others instead of developing your own walk with the Lord
2. Do you think for yourself
  - a. Do not let commentaries do your thinking
  - b. Do not let preachers no matter how famous do your thinking
  - c. Do not allow your culture or your family to tell you what to think
  - d. Get into the Bible
3. Do you have a daily walk with the Lord
4. Can you stand alone for the things of God

c. When they lost Moses they lost all direction **1 And when the people saw that Moses delayed to**

**come down** out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together **unto Aaron**, and said unto him, **Up, make us gods**, which shall go before us; for *as for* this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, **we wot not what is become of him.**

- i. Our church needs strong men that know how to walk with God
  - ii. Men that will keep our church in the Bible and following Jesus
  - iii. Pastors come and go but this is your church
  - iv. If your pastor steps out of line then you should not run from your responsibility
  - v. Do not go get the wrong man to lead you when the pastor steps away
- d. Aaron foolishly tries to please the people
- i. He wants to establish his own leadership
  - ii. He wants the people to respect him
  - iii. He probably has no idea what to do

iv. He scrambles to make up a ministry philosophy in the absence of a man that really knows God and His will **2** And **Aaron said** unto them, Break off the golden earrings, which *are* in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring *them* unto me. **3** And all the people brake off the golden earrings which *were* in their ears, and brought *them* unto Aaron. **4** And **he received** *them* at their hand, and **fashioned** it with a graving tool, **after he had made it a molten calf:** and they said, **These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.**

v. Aaron simply puts the true name of the real God on this idiotic idol **5** And when **Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it;** and Aaron made proclamation, and said, To morrow *is* a **feast to the Lord.**

e. Big lessons for us to learn

- i. Our leaders can fail us.
  - 1. They can step off the scene
  - 2. They can fail to lead when their voice is needed
  - 3. They can die
  - 4. They can fall into sin
- ii. We must make sure that our leadership works at keeping a walk with God
  - 1. They must constantly develop their personal life
  - 2. It would be good to get your pastoral leadership to places that they can be refreshed spiritually
  - 3. Pastors, too, need their batteries charged occasionally
- iii. We need to develop strong lay leadership in our church
  - 1. The missionaries and those we send out are great
  - 2. But the strength of this church will never be those that we send out
  - 3. Nor will it be our pastor
  - 4. The strength of this church will be strong men and women
  - 5. Men and women that love God and can live and act like the spiritual family for all we send out

- iv. We need leadership that tries to please God and never the people
- v. We don't need a new or constantly changing ministry philosophy but to stick to the Word of God

## 2. Great prayer truths illustrated

- a. God states the facts of what is happening with the nation of Israel **7 And the Lord said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for **thy people,** which **thou** broughtest out of the land of Egypt, **have corrupted themselves:** 8 They have **turned aside quickly out of the way** which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These *be* thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. 9 And the Lord said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, **it is a stiffnecked people:****

- i. The people had turned out of the way

- ii. They were a hard headed group that didn't want to humble themselves and do things God's way
  - iii. They have made a golden calf and worshipped it even though they have seen the great hand of God over and over
  - iv. They have insulted God calling their false gods by His name and giving their praise to their idol for doing what God had done
  - v. Moses was their leader and it was now time to step up to his responsibility
- b. God is ready to destroy the Jews and make a special people out of Moses and his lineage **10 Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation.**
- c. Moses prays **11 And Moses besought the Lord his God,** and said, Lord, why doth thy wrath wax hot against **thy people,** which **thou hast brought forth** out of the land of

# Egypt with **great power, and with a mighty hand?**

- i. He reminds God that it was really Him that brought the nation of Israel out of Egypt
- ii. He tells God that he remembers His great power
- iii. He reminds God that they are His people
- iv. He is carefully giving God all the glory for what He has done
- v. He wants God to look good to the world [12](#)

**Wherefore should the Egyptians speak,** and say, **For mischief did he bring them out,** to slay **them** in the mountains, and **to consume them** from the face of the earth? Turn from thy fierce wrath, and repent of this evil against thy people.

1. If God kills the people then the Egyptians will have cause to speak against God and say God did mischief with His people
  - a. The idea of mischief would be that God had evil purposes in bringing His people out of Egypt
  - b. The word has even been translated wickedness and perverseness
  - c. God wouldn't do such a thing in Moses opinion
2. Moses begs God to not do what He had a right to do
3. He begs God to repent of this evil-have a change of heart, feel compassion towards His people
- vi. Moses calls on God to remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel and His promises to them **13 Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, thy servants, to whom thou swarest by thine own self, and saidst unto them, I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have spoken of will I give unto your seed, and they shall inherit it for ever.**
  1. God had given great promises
  2. God keeps His Word and Moses knows that
  3. Moses actually quotes God to God



d. God answers that He will not do to them what He had thought to do **14** *And the Lord repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people.*

- i. This is God explaining in human terms how He felt about sin
- ii. He hurt
- iii. He was angry
- iv. He should have and could have destroyed them but instead again made a way to forgive them
- v. They will however suffer from the consequences of their sins

3. God often calls for a clear stand to be taken **26** *Then*

*Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, **Who***

***is on the Lord's side?*** *let him come*

*unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him.*

- a. Moses is coming down from the mountain where he has been with God **15** *And Moses turned, and went down from the mount, and the **two tables of the***

**testimony were in his hand:** the tables *were* written on both their sides; on the one side and on the other *were* they written.

i. The 10 commandments were the very work of God. He wrote them **16** **And the tables were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, graven upon the tables.**

ii. Moses had met with God.

iii. He had God's very Word written by the very finger of God

iv. Every preacher should be so clear that he steps up and speaks the very Word of God

b. The people are partying and worshipping false gods **17** **And when Joshua heard the noise of the people** as they shouted, he said unto Moses, *There is a noise of war in the camp.* **18** **And he said, It is not the voice of them that shout for mastery, neither is it the voice of them that cry for being**

# overcome: *but* the **noise of them that sing do I hear.**

- i. They are dancing before the calf **19** And it came to pass, as soon as he came nigh unto the camp, that he saw the calf, and the dancing: and Moses' anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount.
  - ii. They are singing and shouting
  - iii. They are worshipping
  - iv. They are naked **25** And when Moses saw that the people *were* naked; (for Aaron had made them naked unto *their* shame among their enemies:)
- c. Moses is super angry
- i. He has thrown and broken the tablets
  - ii. He now grinds up the calf and burns it
  - iii. He makes them drink it **20** And he took the calf which they had made, and burnt *it* in the fire, and ground *it* to powder, and strawed *it* upon the water, and made the children of Israel drink *of it*.

iv. He wants Aaron to explain himself **21 And Moses said unto Aaron, What did this people unto thee, that thou hast brought so great a sin upon them?**

1. Aaron blames it on the congregation **22 And Aaron said, Let not the anger of my lord wax hot: thou knowest the people, that **they are set on mischief.** 23 For they said unto me, Make us gods, which shall go before us: for *as for* this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him. 24 And I said unto them, Whosoever hath any gold, let them break *it* off. So they gave *it* me: then I cast it into the fire, and **there came out this calf****

- a. The people are set on wickedness
- b. They wanted him to make them new gods
- c. He gave them what they wanted
- d. He acted as though the calf just came out

2. Aaron should have been the leader. He should have stood his ground

3. He should have called on the people to do right but wanted to be popular more than right

4. He refused to accept responsibility for his actions

d. It is time for everyone to make a clear decision about

where they stand **27** And he said unto them, Thus

saith the Lord God of Israel, **Put every man**

**his sword** by his side, *and* go in and out from gate

to gate throughout the camp, and **slay every**

**man his brother, and every man his**

**companion, and every man his**

**neighbour.**

i. The call was very personal

ii. Everyone was to respond

iii. They were to stand for the Lord against their brother, friend, and neighbor

iv. Sounds very much like what Jesus said to the

disciples **Luke 14:25** And there went great

multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto

them, **26** If any *man* come to me, and hate not his

father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup> And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. [Matthew 10:34](#) Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: **I came not to send peace, but a sword.** <sup>35</sup> For I am come to **set a man at variance against** his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. <sup>36</sup> And a **man's foes shall be they of his own household.** <sup>37</sup> He that loveth father or mother more than me is **not worthy of me:** and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is **not worthy of me.** <sup>38</sup> And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is **not worthy of me.** <sup>39</sup> He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

- v. The children of Levi obeyed and 3,000 men died **28**  
And the children of Levi did according to the word of Moses: and there fell of the people that day about three thousand men.
- vi. They were taking a stand to show their love for God above all others **29** For Moses had said,  
**Consecrate yourselves** to day to the Lord, even every man upon his son, and upon his brother; that he may bestow upon you a blessing this day.
- vii. It is often hard to stand for right when it affects your friends and family
  - 1. One thing not to agree another to pick up the sword
  - 2. God is big on us knowing and showing that we are on His side
  - 3. Where do you stand? Have you made a decision that clearly states that you love Jesus above all else

4. A willing substitute for sin **30** And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses said unto the people, **Ye have sinned a great sin:** and now I will go up unto the Lord; peradventure I shall make an atonement for your sin.
- a. They had sinned and Moses knew it
- i. He lovingly tells them that he will try to make amends, atonement, for their sins
- ii. This is much like what Paul said about the Jews **Romans 9:1** I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, **2** That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. **3 For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh: 4** Who are Israelites; to whom *pertaineth* the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises; **5** Whose *are* the fathers, and of whom as



concerning the flesh Christ *came*, who is over all,  
God blessed for ever. Amen.

- b. Moses prayed to God for them **31** And Moses returned unto the Lord, and said, Oh, **this people have sinned a great sin**, and have made them gods of gold.
- c. He wanted to be die and even eternally possibly if they could be saved **32** Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin—; and if not, **blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written.**
- d. The Lord said that the sinner would die **33** And the Lord said unto Moses, **Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book.**
- e. God forgave them. He allowed them to go on to the promised land but said that they would still deal with the consequences of their sins **34** Therefore **now**

**go,** lead the people **unto *the place*** of which I have spoken unto thee: behold, mine Angel shall go before thee: nevertheless in the day when I visit **I will visit their sin upon them.** <sup>35</sup> And **the Lord plagued the people,** because they made the calf, which Aaron made.

- i. The beautiful lesson that is hinted at in this verse is the idea of a substitute
  1. Moses and Paul both offered themselves for others
  2. Jesus did offer Himself for others
  3. We are saved because Jesus did take our sin on Himself
  4. I am glad that God Himself wanted to reconcile us through Jesus Christ and His death on the cross
- ii. We could never atone for our own sin
- iii. We deserve to die for going our own way and doing our own thing-just like they did for making an idol

- iv. But thank God for His love and mercy and taking our sin on Himself so we could be free