



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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Don't pick up what God delivered you from!

Scripture: Exodus 32:1-10, 19-24

"God said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance" (Genesis 15:13-14).

According to Exodus 12:40–41, the total time the children of Israel lived in Egypt was 430 years. Ancient Egyptians worshipped a vast, polytheistic pantheon of over 2,000 deities. Exodus 32:1-14 details the infamous Golden Calf incident, where an impatient Israel turns to idolatry while Moses is on Mount Sinai. It highlights human vulnerability to false security, the gravity of sin, and the powerful, prevailing nature of intercession and divine mercy. The people grew scared and restless because Moses stayed on the mountain for a long time. They were weary of a god without a face. They forced Aaron to make a gold statue of a calf to lead them, forgetting the real God who saved them from Egypt. But in doing so, they were ignoring the command He had just given them: *"Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image"* (Exodus 20:4). Aaron gave in to the crowd instead of standing up for God's clear commands.

Moses reacted with holy anger to the golden calf, destroying the idol, and confronting Aaron for his weak excuse (Exodus 32:19-24). Moses asks Aaron what the people did to make him bring this huge sin on them, holding the acting leader responsible. Aaron tries to defend himself by blaming the rebellious nature of the people. He claims he just collected their gold, threw it in the fire, and "out came this calf." The Israelites demand Aaron fashion them "gods who will go before them." They quickly abandon the invisible, true God for a tangible, visible idol they can control and celebrate. God tells Moses the people have corrupted themselves. Moses threw down the law tablets God gave him, showing visually that the people already broke their holy agreement with God. Moses burns the gold idol, grinds it into fine dust, throws it into the water supply, and makes the Israelites drink it. This forces them to literally taste the bitter result of their sin and internalize their shame.

The golden calf wasn't just a rejection of God, but an attempt to control the divine by making a visible, manageable image in Moses' absence. When God expresses righteous anger, Moses steps in to intercede, pleading on the basis of God's reputation and past promises. God's choice to relent highlights His mercy over total destruction. Moses offering to be "blotted out" of God's book to save the people is widely viewed by theologians as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role as the ultimate mediator and atoning sacrifice.

Centuries later, the Apostle Paul dealt with the same error with the Galatians: *Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?* (Galatians 3:3) It is possible to begin the Christian life trusting Jesus, and then at a later time to trust self or one's own spirituality. Following our own gods is no better for us than it was for ancient Israel.

Even if we do not make idols, we are often guilty of trying to make God in our image, molding Him to fit our expectations, desires, and circumstances. When we do this, we end up worshiping ourselves rather than the God who created us—and self worship, today as in the Israelites' time, leads to all kinds of immorality. The gods we create blind us to the love our loving God wants to shower on us. God cannot work in us when we elevate anyone or anything above Him. **Are any false gods in your life preventing the true God from living in you?** People of God, don't pick up what God delivered you from. The children of Israel cried for over 400 years for a deliverer. And when God sent a deliver (Moses) and brought them out of bondage, they wind up picking up the Egyptians idol worship. Jesus Christ shed His blood on Calvary—the perfect sacrifice, so that He could redeem mankind back to their rightful state. Since Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden by eating from the *"tree of the knowledge of good and evil"* (Genesis 2:17).

We that have obeyed Acts 2:38, do not allow the things that are happening in this world force you to go back into the world. Paul says, *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God"* (Romans 12:1-2).

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