



I. **Idolatry in the Camp! The People Worship the Golden Calf. (32:1-6)**

1. **The people were tired of God's way and decided to do it their own way.**

- They grew tired of waiting for Moses. See how quickly they gave up on God and His way to turn to other gods.
- They made a gold calf and said that it brought them out of Egypt. How foolish and sinful idolatry is! It is offensive to God's providence and power.
📖 Exodus 20:2-3 *"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me."*
- They worshipped and offered sacrifices their own way. God has given us a way to worship Him—according to His Word, and we do not have the liberty to do things as we think is best.
📖 John 4:23-24 *"But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."*
- They are an example to us, to warn us.
📖 1 Corinthians 10:6-7 *"Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, 'The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.'"*

II. **Great Intercession! Moses Pleads with the Lord for the People's Lives. (32:7-14)**

1. **God pronounces that the people deserve judgment.**

- He tells Moses that they are 'your people'. They had turned away from God.
- They turned away from God, broke His commandment, and attributed His works to another. They were certainly deserving of judgment!

2. **Moses intercedes for the people.**

- He pleads according to God's grace – giving the people back to God.
- He pleads according to God's glory – what would the Egyptians think?
- He pleads according to God's great faithfulness – asking Him to remember His promises.

3. **God demonstrates His wonderful mercy.**

- 📖 **Nehemiah 9:18-19** *"Even when they made a molded calf for themselves, and said, 'This is your god that brought you up out of Egypt,' and worked great provocations, yet in Your manifold mercies you did not forsake them in the wilderness. The pillar of the cloud did not depart from them by day, to lead them on the road; nor the pillar of fire by night, to show them light, and the way they should go."*

III. **Good and Bad Leadership. (32:15-35)**

1. **Aaron is an example of a bad leader in this situation.**

- He was afraid of the people more than he was afraid of God.
- He was unable to restrain the people but had to do what they wanted.
- He brought shame to God and His people.

2. **Moses is an example of a good leader.**

- He dealt with the problem—sin.
- The people had to drink of the bitterness that sin brings.
- Moses calls the people to choose: Life with God, or death in rebellion. "Who is on the Lord's side?"
- He is willing to sacrifice his own life for the sake of the people even though they didn't deserve it.
📖 Romans 9:3 *"For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh"*
- Jesus was not only willing, but He actually did give His life for the People.
📖 Galatians 3:13 *"Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree')"*
- 📖 **Isaiah 53:5** *"But He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed."*