



Week 11 - OH MY!! This is how our reading could be summarized at the start of the week with Exodus 32. The gold calf, sigh! The 2 1/2 chapters we covered are full of drama, and redemption. Let's look at this in review. This is a longer review. Stick with it.

Exodus 32

1. What do you think the people thought had happened to Moses since he was gone 40 days?
2. Why do you feel Aaron caved so quickly?
3. The idol is made, but in verse 5 Aaron mentioned having a festival to the LORD. It is not that he no longer believed in Yahweh (LORD), he is trying to appease people.
4. Verse 10 - What was God willing to do against Israel and for Moses?
5. Verses 11-15 have Moses appealing to God. What about God does Moses appeal to, to not destroy Israel?
6. It is interesting, God is all-knowing. Nothing caught God by surprise. The wording of the story is not suggesting God repented of some sin, not at all. We have this story written in language we can grasp. What happened in these moments was for Moses' sake. Moses would learn he could speak to God about all matters. He learned that based on his relationship with God, he could approach God with humble boldness. Moses learned the power of interceding prayer. How does this speak to you?
7. Verse 24 - What is outrageous about Aaron's explanation of the gold calf? What details did he leave out? (Take a moment before moving ahead)
8. Aaron was claiming a miracle occurred - I just threw in the gold and boom- out came this calf."
9. The rest of the chapter is a tough scene. Consequences occur to set an example for all the people. 3000 men are killed - they were obviously leaders of the coup against Yahweh. God tells Moses that He (Yahweh) will not lead them as before but will provide an angel (not all powerful) to go with them. Moses will intercede again for the people. Remember this Moses who at the beginning wanted no part in God's call - but here - he is willing to give his life (be erased from God's book) if God would forgive the people.
10. The closing of the chapter is powerful - God has warned the people of the consequences of sin - not He is settling accounts - punishment occurs as the chapter concludes.

Exodus 33

1. The chapter begins with a summary of the big picture: God will no longer attend them directly, but an angel will. He tells the people that His promise is still in place- -they will receive the land of milk and honey, it's His direct presence they will miss. The people mourned. This a good thing! Here we have the start of a spiritual renewal! God is going to see that the people want HIM, not just what God will give! How should this speak to our souls?
2. Moses goes outside the camp and makes his own tent. This is not the Tabernacle previously discussed in the earlier chapters. This is Moses' personal meeting place with God. Here is the personal meeting with God, the Bible puts this in language we can understand - God talked with Moses as a friend, "face to face." In a bit we will see that phrase is a metaphor for closeness. Later, we will see that Moses could not actually see the "face" of God or Moses would die.
3. Verse 15 - now recall God said He would not go directly with them any longer - see Moses' request. How awesome is this? Verse 17 God gave favor to the request.
4. Moses is learning that friendship with God leads to talking with God(prayer). Moses, however, gets more bold - Moses wants to see God's glory. How did God answer this request, but not fully answer, and why not fully?
5. Seeing God's back is more in the line with Moses saw the trail God's glory left. Knowing that God is Spirit - do you think that Moses meeting with God was a pre-incarnate meeting with God, the Son, who does have a body?

Exodus 34:1-28

1. What do you find similar in this story with the first story of Moses heading to the top of Sinai?