

FEB

15

THE GOLDEN CALF

 Exodus 32, 34:1-9

Before **Moses** received the two stone tablets, he **was up on Mount Sinai for 40 days and 40 nights talking with God. When the people saw Moses did not come back quickly, they came to Aaron and said, "Come and make gods for us who will go before us.** Moses has left us, and we don't know what has happened to him!"

Aaron asked them to take off all their gold jewelry and bring it to him. He made the gold jewelry into the image of a calf. The people said, "These are our gods who brought us up from the land of Egypt!" They had a big party and made sacrifices to the golden calf.

The Lord knew what the people were doing. He **said to Moses: "Go down the mountain at once! The people have sinned. They have disobeyed Me and made a golden calf to worship.** My anger burns against them!" **But Moses said,** "Please turn from Your anger and **do not destroy the people!** Remember the promise You made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, that their children would be as many as the stars in the sky!" **The Lord heard Moses and agreed not to destroy the Israelites.**

Then **Moses** went down the mountain with the two stone tablets in his hands. He **was angry when he saw the people worshiping the golden calf. He smashed the tablets on the ground and destroyed the calf they had made. He said, "You have sinned against the Lord. I will go up to Him and ask Him to forgive you."**

Moses returned to the Lord and said, "The people have sinned by making a god of gold for themselves. Please forgive their sin. But if You will not, please punish me with them." God told Moses that whoever has sinned against Him will be held accountable for their sin. Then God told Moses to lead the people to the place He told him about.

God instructed Moses to make two new stone tablets, just like the ones that had broken. **God said, "The Lord is compassionate and gracious. He is slow to anger and abounding in love and truth."** Moses worshiped God. Then he said to God, "Please go with us, forgive our sin, and make us Your people." Moses then returned to the people with the two tablets in his hands.

We may not make golden idols like Israel, but we all sin against God. We have turned away from worshiping Him alone and loving Him with all our hearts. Our sin deserves to be punished because God is holy. When Jesus died on the cross, He took the punishment for our sins. Through faith in Jesus, we can have forgiveness and a right relationship with God. If you want to learn more about following Jesus, I would love to talk with you.