



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE®

Exodus and Leviticus Sermon Series  
Supports Session 9: Instructions  
Sermon Title: “Idolatry” (Exodus 32:1-6)

---

### Connection to Session 9

God miraculously saved Israel by delivering them from slavery in Egypt. God miraculously provided for Israel in the wilderness. The Lord gave Israel the Ten Commandments that instructed them how to live in light of His presence. However, Israel began to fall back into idolatry, forgetting all that God had done for them.

### Introduction/Opening

Some people know what being saved from imminent death is like, whether through a car accident, being shot at, or experiencing other near-death encounters. The Israelites knew what being saved from death was like. They had heard the sound of the Egyptian chariots pressing in on them, yet God saved them. However, in this text we learn that Israel forgot what God had done for them and even constructed a golden calf to worship. This text shows us what lies at the heart of idolatry.

### Outline

#### I. **Idolatry is disobedience (Ex. 32:1)**

Idolatry is found throughout the Old Testament. Idolatry is trusting in created things rather than trusting in our Creator. Although we may not be tempted to create a golden calf today, we are still tempted with idolatry in our lives and hearts.

- a. Idolatry leads us to disobey God
  - i. The people asked Aaron to make them a god.
  - ii. The people directly disobeyed the first and second commandments (Ex. 20:3-6).

#### II. **Idolatry is forgetting (Ex. 32:1-2)**

In Exodus 24:3, the people had promised to obey the Lord’s commands. Yet, they quickly forgot what God had done for them and their promise of obedience.

- a. Idolatry causes us to forget what God has done.
  - i. Notice what the people say about Moses, “the man who brought us out of the land of Egypt” (v. 1).
    1. Moses was not the one who brought them out of Egypt – it was God. They had forgotten what God had done for them.
      - a. The people had forgotten that it was God who saved them.

- b. Application: When we sin, we are forgetting what God has done for us. How can you commit to not forget what God has done?
  - ii. Idolatry causes us to forget our commitment to the Lord
    - 1. When we come to faith in Christ, we are committing ourselves to live for God's glory (1 Cor. 10:31). However, when we sin, we are breaking this commitment.

### III. Idolatry is corrupting (Ex. 32:3-6)

Idolatry corrupts our hearts so that we begin to worship God's creation, rather than our Creator. God had given the people instructions on how to worship Him. However, they chose to worship in the way they wanted.

- a. Idolatry corrupts our use of possessions.
  - i. In Exodus 25:2, God did not command the people to give towards the building of the tabernacle. They gave as they were moved as an act of worship. In Exodus 32, they used their possessions to craft idols (v. 2).
    - 1. Idolatry had so corrupted their hearts, that they used their possessions for their own pleasure.
      - a. Application: Our giving is meant to be an act of worship. God has entrusted us with resources, not to use for our own pleasure but to use for His glory.
- b. Idolatry corrupts our actions
  - i. God had given the people instructions on how to worship Him properly.
  - ii. The people disobeyed God's commands and danced in the presence of this idol. They created a god that they could approach on their own terms.
  - iii. Instead of worshipping the one true and living God, they worshiped a golden calf.
  - iv. Instead of worshipping the Creator, they worshiped the creation.
  - v. Instead of being wise, they were being foolish.

### Conclusion

We all worship something, the question is what are we worshipping? What is the center of our worship? For many people, they worship their own desires. Our sin problems are really worship problems. In Exodus 32, the Israelites failed to stay true to the commitment to worship God alone. Many were judged for their idolatrous worship. However, God has made a way for us to be delivered from the punishment for our sins. God sent Christ to deliver us from the bondage of idolatrous worship, so that we could live for His glory.

*Greg Kilgore is the Associational Missions Strategist for the Mid-Valley Southern Baptist Association in Fresno, CA. He and his wife, Megan, have three children. Greg is a PhD student at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he also teaches as an adjunct professor.*

*All Scripture quotations are taken from the Christian Standard Bible, Copyright 2017 by Holman Bible Publishers.*