

The Sin Beneath All Sin

Exodus 32

I. A dire crisis

This account gives us much insight into the nature and gravity of idolatry

A. A breach of the first two commandments

1. "You shall have no other gods before me" [Exodus 20:3]
2. Do not make a _____ image--do not worship God in a false manner

B. Why are graven images prohibited?

1. Images _____ the reality of God
God is transcendent
2. Images are lifeless--God is "the _____ of life" [Psalm 36:9]
3. Images falsify God's sovereign _____
Make God manageable--subject to human control and manipulation
4. Images are _____ and _____
5. Images _____ God of the glory He is due
"My glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols." [Isaiah 42:8b]

C. Images diminish us as persons--we become what we _____

"Whatever overcomes a person, to that he is _____." [Second Peter 2:19b]

D. Causes of idolatry

1. Refusal to _____ gratification
2. Convenient _____
They did not consider it worthwhile to _____ the knowledge of God [Rom. 1:28]
3. _____ pressure--Aaron craves the people's approval more than God's.
4. Bottom line: we want to manage our own lives
"_____ - _____"--an ox that refuses to wear its master's yoke.
The Israelites want a _____ - _____ god!

II. Idolatry: the sin beneath the sin

A. What is an idol?

1. Commonly assumed meaning: a carved stone or wooden image
2. Common current meaning: _____--sports figures, rock stars, movie actors
3. The _____ meaning of idolatry
"Whatever claims the _____ that belongs to God alone" [Motyer]
Idolatry is a _____ disorder

B. Idolatry allies

_____-shifting

III. The consequences of idolatry

"I will visit their sin upon them." [Exodus 32:34b]

IV. _____ for idolaters

1. Moses _____ for the people

"Perhaps I can make _____ for your sin." [Exodus 34:30]

2. The Greater Moses

The only one who can truly atone for our sins.

Propitiation: the _____ of the Gospel

"To satisfy – to appease--to turn away wrath – to make _____"

Our Lord freely offered himself as a substitutionary sacrifice for our sins

V. How shall we then live?

"Beloved children, keep yourselves from idols." [First John 5:21]