

The gods We Serve
Exodus 32:1-4
By Russ Earl

Thesis: I want to show the importance of recognizing who we serve.

Intro:

1. What gods do men serve today?
2. Why do men serve these gods?
3. Today, we will answer these questions.

I. When Men forget God

- A. ...because of deception
 1. When men choose to enjoy the pleasures of sin & forget that these quickly fade away, he is deceived (**Heb 11:25**).
 2. Satan wants us to think there will be no harm in or consequences for sin.
 - a. We should be careful that we do not fall prey to the lying of Satan (**Jn 8:44**).
- B. ... because they lose focus.
 1. Many things are important in life but when we loose focus on putting God first in our lives (**Mt 6:33**), then we have lost sight of what is most important. Notice how Christ puts it in **Mt 16:26**.
 2. We must learn from Peter's mistake in **Mt 14:30**, never take your eyes off Christ.
- C. ...when they become discouraged.
 1. In **Exodus 32:1**; the men forgot God when they got discouraged.
 2. The mistake that men make is turning from God when discouraged, instead of turning to the source of strength & comfort (**Ps 46:1**).

II. Wanting a different god (**Ex 32:2-3**).

- A. Aaron obeys the people
 1. He asks for their gold in order to give them what they want.
 2. The people's possessions (**Ex 12:35-36**) would now possess them, it was becoming their god.
 - a. How many participated in forsaking God...all of them (**Ex 32:3**).
- B. Aaron's attempt at blending worship
 1. You cannot worship a false god, though Aaron built an altar in an attempt to do so.
 2. He attempted to make things seem ok by building an altar for their new god (**Ex 32:5-6**), the worship was similar to that of worshipping God, but it wasn't worship of the true God.

III. God's response

- A. God's charges against them.
 1. God tells Moses to get down quickly. There was no time to waste.
 2. Notice what God condemns them for. (Ex 32:7-9)
 - a. They had corrupted themselves (**v.7**)
 - b. They had turned aside quickly out of the way (**v.8**)
 - c. They had corrupted themselves a molten calf (**v. 8**)

- d. They have worshipped it (v.8)
- e. They have called this idol their god (v.8)
- f. They are stiff-necked (v.9)
- B. God's mercy
 - 1. God was going to destroy them all (Ex 32:10).
 - 2. Moses appealed to God and God was merciful to them (Ex 32:11-14)
- C. Moses' return to the Camp
 - 1. Moses gets fired up! (v.19-20).
 - a. Insult to the injury was making the people drink the water with the powder of the golden calf.
 - 2. It's fitting that the next section of scripture deals with who is on the Lord's side.
 - a. We cannot be those who are only on the Lord's side some of the time, we must be on His side all of the time (Ex 32:26).

Conc:

- 1. How will you respond when you are discouraged?
- 2. How will you respond when you lose focus or are deceived?
- 3. Are you on the Lord's side?
- 4. Or, are you tempted to follow another "god"?

Hear

Romans 10:17

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Believe

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever + in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Repent

Luke 13:3

I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.

Confess

Rom 10:9 — Rom 10:10

that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Be baptized

Acts 2:38

Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 22:16

And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.’

Remain Faithful

Revelation 2:10

Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.