

## Moses Lesson 27 Handout

### Exodus 19:3–8

**3** Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain and said, “This is what you are to say to the house of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel:

**4** ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself.

**5** Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession.

Although the whole earth is mine,

**6** you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.”

**7** So Moses went back and summoned the elders of the people and set before them all the words the LORD had commanded him to speak.

**8** The people all responded together, “We will do everything the LORD has said.” So Moses brought their answer back to the LORD.

### Exodus 32–33:6

**1** When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered themselves together to Aaron and said to him, “Up, make us gods who shall go before us. As for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.”

**2** So Aaron said to them, “Take off the rings of gold that are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.”

**3** So all the people took off the rings of gold that were in their ears and brought them to Aaron.

**4 And he received the gold from their hand and fashioned it with a graving tool and made a golden calf.**

**And they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!"**

**5 When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made a proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a feast to the LORD."**

**6 And they rose up early the next day and offered burnt offerings and brought peace offerings. And the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.**

They COULDN'T SEE GOD or  
FEEL HIS PRESENCE so they  
wanted to trade the true God  
for a false God that they could  
touch and see.

What is  
the difference  
between  
an IDOL  
and a BLESSING?

**1 Chronicles 29:28 (NIV84)**

**28 He (David) died at a good old age, having enjoyed long life, wealth and honor.**

**Ecclesiastes 5:19 (NIV84)**

**19 Moreover, when God gives any man wealth and possessions, and enables him to enjoy them, to accept his lot and be happy in his work—this is a gift of God.**

**Ecclesiastes 8:15 (NIV84)**

**15 So I commend the enjoyment of life, because nothing is better for a man under the sun than to eat and drink and be glad. Then joy will accompany him in his work all the days of the life God has given him under the sun.**

**Jeremiah 31:5 (NIV84)**

**5 Again you will plant vineyards on the hills of Samaria; the farmers will plant them and enjoy their fruit.**

**1 Timothy 6:17 (NIV84)**

**17 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.**

***It causes  
me to  
disobey  
God.***

***It gives  
me greater  
joy than  
Christ.***

***It is what  
I daydream  
about  
the most.***

**"God will let you scratch the surface of success. He will let you get close enough to the top to know what it is, but He will never let you have it, because He will never let one of His children have anything rather than Himself."**

*It is what  
I most  
enjoy  
talking  
about.*

*It is  
what  
I fear  
losing  
the most.*

*It is what  
I most  
enjoy  
reading  
about.*

*It is what  
I most  
love spending  
money  
on.*

**When the blessing  
becomes the center  
of my life.**

When I am no longer satisfied with what God is giving me but instead I am pushing Him aside and replacing Him with things and people who I believe will satisfy me more.

**1 John 5:21**

**21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols (false gods)—[from anything and everything that would occupy the place in your heart due to God, from any sort of substitute for Him that would take first place in your life].**

Idols are anything that  
overwhelms your life  
that you focus on the  
most.

**Psalm 127:3 Behold, children are a gift of the LORD, the fruit of the womb is a reward.**

**Deuteronomy 8:18 (NASB95)**

**18 "But you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth, that He may confirm His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.**

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**7 And the LORD said to Moses, "Go down, for your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves.**

**8 They have turned aside quickly out of the way that I commanded them. They have made for themselves a golden calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' "**

**9 And the LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people.**

**10 Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, in order that I may make a great nation of you."**

Compassion  
for these  
wayward  
people  
and concern  
for God's  
name.

**11 But Moses implored the LORD his God and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand?"**

**12 Why should the Egyptians say, 'With evil intent did he bring them out, to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your burning anger and relent from this disaster against your people.**

**13 Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, to whom you swore by your own self, and said to them, 'I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your offspring, and they shall inherit it forever.' "**

***"I'm leaving you for someone else"  
I don't love you anymore  
You are fired  
Our friendship is over  
You stole from me  
You gossiped about me  
You lied to me  
You didn't do what you said you would.***

***We have all heard some version of the statements above; declarations of actions from someone who brings on hurt and anger. So often when we hear dreadful words like these our first response is: "How can I get back at the person who has devastated my life? What can I do to make them pay for what they did to me?" And what is the biblical answer? God says to do nothing. Nothing? Nothing. Because that sounds so difficult many times we need to be reminded that our enemies, those who have hurt us, are not our problem but instead they are God's. He promises to take care of them for us. Hebrews 10:30 reminds us "For we know Him who said, vengeance is***

***Mine; I will repay says the Lord. And again, the lord will judge and determine and solve and settle the cause and the cases of His people.”***

An idol is something that becomes more important in our life than God and sometimes anger and bitterness can become an idol because it overtakes us where we can't see God anymore.

**14 And the LORD relented from the disaster that he had spoken of bringing on his people.**

**This excerpt is from *When Critics Ask: A Popular Handbook on Bible Difficulties*( Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books, 1992). © 2014 Norman Geisler and Thomas Howe.**

**When Israel was at the foot of the mountain engaged in idol worship, God told Moses that His anger was burning against them and He was prepared to destroy them in judgment. However, when Moses interceded for them, the circumstances were changed. God's attitude toward sin is always anger, and His attitude toward those who call to Him is always an attitude of mercy.**

**Before Moses prayed for Israel, they were under God's judgment. By Moses' intercession for the people of Israel, he brought them under God's mercy. God did not change. Rather, the circumstances changed.**

**The language used in this passage is called anthropomorphic, or man-centered, language. It is similar to someone moving from one place to another and saying, "Now the house is on my right," "Now the house is on my left." Neither of these statements is meant to imply that the house has moved. Rather, it is language from a human perspective to describe that I have changed my position in relation to the house.**

**When Moses said that God relented, it was a figurative way of describing that Moses' intercession successfully changed the relationship of the people to God. He brought the nation under the mercy of God's grace, and out from under the judgment of God. God does not change, neither His mind, His will, nor His nature.**

**15 Then Moses turned and went down from the mountain with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand, tablets that were written on both sides; on the front and on the back they were written.**

**16 The tablets were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets.**

**17 When Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said to Moses, "There is a noise of war in the camp."**

**18 But he said, "It is not the sound of shouting for victory, or the sound of the cry of defeat, but the sound of singing that I hear."**

**19 And as soon as he came near the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, Moses' anger burned hot, and he threw the tablets out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain.**

**20 He took the calf that they had made and burned it with fire and ground it to powder and scattered it on the water and made the people of Israel drink it.**

**21 And Moses said to Aaron, "What did this people do to you that you have brought such a great sin upon them?"**

**22 And Aaron said, "Let not the anger of my lord burn hot. You know the people, that they are set on evil.**

**23 For they said to me, 'Make us gods who shall go before us. As for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.'**

**24 So I said to them, 'Let any who have gold take it off.' So they gave it to me, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf."**

**Exodus 32:25** Moses saw that the people were running wild and that Aaron had let them get out of control and so become a laughingstock to their enemies.

**26** then Moses stood in the gate of the camp and said, "Who is on the LORD's side? Come to me." And all the sons of Levi gathered around him.

**27** And he said to them, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel, 'Put your sword on your side each of you, and go to and fro from gate to gate throughout the camp, and each of you kill his brother and his companion and his neighbor.' "

**28** And the sons of Levi did according to the word of Moses. And that day about three thousand men of the people fell.

**They wanted to  
make God into something  
He was not.**

***Power:*** a longing for influence or recognition

***Control:*** a longing to have everything go according to my plan

***Comfort:*** a longing for pleasure

***Approval:*** a longing to be accepted or desired

**J.D. Greear** In any of these five sins, you can command me: "J.D. Don't be angry. Thou shalt not lie. But you might as well tell a dog not to bark. My problem is that my heart so craves the approval of others that these sins come as instinctively to me as breathing.

**My insecurity makes me fearful. It makes me be short tempered. It makes me willing to bend the truth for personal advantage. And even if I could discipline myself not to get angry or worried or lie, I would have covered up the real problem:**

I delight more in the approval of others than I do in the approval of God. I am an idolater.

I delight more in the recognition of others than being recognized by God. I am an idolater.

I delight more in controlling people and situations than giving that control to God. I am an idolater.

I delight more in comfort and pleasure than being satisfied with what God has given me. I am an idolater.

***Power:* a longing for influence or recognition**

***Control:* a longing to have everything go according to my plan**

***Comfort:* a longing for pleasure**

***Approval:* a longing to be accepted or desired**