



## The Truth about Golden Calves

Exodus 32:1-6 (NIV)

*When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, “Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don’t know what has happened to him.”<sup>2</sup> Aaron answered them, “Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me.”<sup>3</sup> So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. <sup>4</sup> He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, “These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.”<sup>5</sup> When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, “Tomorrow there will be a festival to the Lord.”<sup>6</sup> So the next day the people rose early and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings. Afterward they sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.*

### I. Golden calves don’t make you wait!

- Life’s biggest mistakes are often made in the waiting room.

Essentials for the waiting room:

- ◇ Remember the goodness of God in your life.
- ◇ Remember God is teaching you how to walk by faith not by sight.
- ◇ Remember God is often doing His greatest work when He seems to be silent.

### 2. Golden calves fade fast.

### 3. Golden calves can be easily spiritualized. (Exodus 32:5-6)

Recognizing Calf Worship:

- ◇ Influenced way more by the crowd than the Word!
- ◇ Corporate gatherings don’t lead to individual growth!
- ◇ Desire the things of God, just not the presence of God!
- ◇ Live like an owner not a steward.
- ◇ Live as though God is blind to your sin. (Exodus 32:7-8)

### 4. Golden calves can’t pay the price!

Exodus 32:30-32 (NIV)

*The next day Moses said to the people, “You have committed a great sin. But now I will go up to the Lord; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin.”<sup>31</sup> So Moses went back to the Lord and said, “Oh, what a great sin these people have committed! They have made themselves gods of gold.”<sup>32</sup> But now, please forgive their sin—but if not, then blot me out of the book you have written.”*

- A substitute moves people from a place of judgement to a place of mercy with God!