



Sacrifice

Stiff-Necked week 2

Exodus 32:7-10

We are prone to do whatever we can to get what we want, and this always involves making sacrifices

Here's the thing though, don't make sacrifices for the wrong things. Check out this passage in Exodus 32...

Exodus 32:7-10

'And the Lord said to Moses, "Go down, for your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves. 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!"' And the Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people. 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." ' [ESV]

God tells Moses the people have chosen to worship an idol. Notice God now refers to them, not as His people, but as Moses people. AND they were willing to do whatever it took to worship that thing. They were sacrificing stuff God gave them for an idol. Tony Merida says this, "Any created thing can be an object of idolatry." And here the object happened to be a gold calf, but it really wasn't about the object, it was about themselves and their selfish desires to do whatever they wanted.

Results of Worshiping the Created:

1] Our selfish sacrifices lead to a corrupt life

Notice verse 7-8 again, *'And the Lord said to Moses, "Go down, for your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves. 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!"'*

When we worship and sacrifice for temporal things it leads to corruption.

Romans 1:22-25

'Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. ' [ESV]

Can we identify some areas in our lives where we are selfish?

2] Our selfish sacrifice leads us to reflect the image of what we are worshiping

Notice verse 9-10 again, *And the Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people. 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." '* [ESV]

In a sense, we are always becoming like what or who we worship. We will sacrifice what we have to get more of what we worship. Check this out from Psalm...

Psalm 115:4-8

Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands. 5They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see. 6They have ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell. 7They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk; and they do not make a sound in their throat. 8Those who make them become like them; so do all who trust in them. [ESV]

Hosea 4:16

' Like a stubborn heifer, Israel is stubborn; can the Lord now feed them like a lamb in a broad pasture?'

Are we willing to share some things we sacrifice for that are NOT eternal?

2 Corinthians 3:18

'And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.'
[ESV]

Imagine This...

Imagine if we quit making sacrifices for what glorifies self

Life Application & Action Question...

- *What did the Holy Spirit say to you?**
- *What are you going to do about it?**
- *How can we help you and pray for you?**