



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

God is Our Rescuer Series, Lesson 9

Lesson Title: Fooled People Worship False Gods

Take Home Point: Only worship God.

Warm-Up:

"Don't leave the house while I'm gone." "Don't answer the door and let anyone in the house." "Don't talk to strangers." "Stay right beside me while we're in the store." These are all very good instructions we give our children for their well-being. Do they always listen and follow these instructions? No, not always. Occasionally, they genuinely forget or misunderstand. We can excuse that as part of growing up and use it as a learning experience for them. But when they don't obey because they want to do it their way, or they listen to a friend instead of their parents, then it is a problem that requires a firm response.

Read: Exodus 32

Observation (What happened?):

Why did the people tell Aaron they wanted him to make a god?

What did Moses say so that the Lord relented and did not destroy the Israelites?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why do you think the Israelites wanted an idol to worship?

What do you think God wanted the people to do while they waited?

Insight:

In Exodus 24:14, Moses told the Israelite elders, "Wait here for us until we come back to you." Then he went up the mountain to receive the law of God. As frequently occurs when people are told to wait for God, the Israelites got impatient. With impatience they either forgot the direction Moses gave or chose to ignore it. The result is what you read in Exodus 32. It's not really so unlike us. Sometimes God asks us to wait on him so the timing of his work is just right. But we get impatient and try to do something on our own, or we look to someone else for help. When that happens, we are just like the Israelites at the foot of the mountain. We do something foolish. In fact, we have even less of an excuse because we have the Bible, where God's promises are written so we can be reminded of them any time. He promises to never leave us, to work for our good, to complete his work in us, and so much more. We can depend on his promises no matter how distant he seems. He is always with us working on our behalf.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

What do you need to guard against so it does not become an idol that you care about more than the Lord?

What do you do when you are tempted to trust something other than God for your future?