

Scripture for Sunday, May 30, 2021

Introduction: God used Moses to free the Israelites from slavery under the Egyptians. He parted the sea to help them escape and now they wandered in the desert, guided by Moses, eventually headed to the Promised Land of Milk and Honey. But when God called Moses to come up to the mountain to receive the ten commandments, the people were impatient and lacked faith in God. He left them with his brother Aaron.

Exodus 32:1-10 (New Revised Standard Version)

¹ When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, “Come, make gods for us, 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 Aaron said to them, “Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.” ³ So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. ⁴ He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a 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 proclamation and said, “Tomorrow shall be a festival to the LORD.” ⁶ They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.

⁷ The LORD said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸ they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a 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 The LORD said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰ Now let me alone, so that my wrath

may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation."

Closing: You will need to read the entire story in Exodus to learn what happened next, or wait for your pastor's sermon to hear what happened when Moses went down that mountain encountering the revelers dancing and worshiping that calf!

This is the Word of God for the People of God....Thanks be to God.