

Love Speaks Passionately Exodus 32

Background

It has been less than a year that the children of Israel have been out of Egypt. In this year they had seen:

- the deliverance from Egypt,
- the crossing of the Red Sea,
- the miracle of daily manna and quail,
- water flow from a rock, and
- the defeat of the Amalekites as Moses kept his hands raised.

At the beginning of chapter 32 Moses had been on Mount Sinai for 40 days. He was receiving the law from the Lord himself. The people below were becoming impatient as they waited for the Lord.

Exodus 32:1-6

1. While the behavior of the Israelites is shocking after all that they had seen from the Lord, it is also predictable. Explain.
2. In this situation we might classify Aaron as a “people pleaser.” Why did Aaron think this was easier?
3. Why might it seem easier to please people than to speak the truth of God’s Word passionately no matter the circumstance?

Exodus 32:7-14

1. How does Moses speak passionately for the people in the verses 11-13?
2. Because we have a God who keeps his promises to forgive, does that lead us to maybe not take his threats as seriously as we should? What do you think?

Exodus 32:15-24

1. Moses came off that mountain with tablets that were the very work of God (verses 15-16). Why do you think he would smash them?
2. Moses spoke to Aaron. Aaron still doesn’t seem to understand. In verses 22-24 do you think Aaron actually believes the excuse he gave to Moses? Remember this is an 80-year-old man.
3. In our world and in our lives what sins do we have the easiest time excusing?

Exodus 32:25-35

1. What is your reaction to the way Moses intercedes for the people?
2. What specific sins keep coming back among God’s people today? With what sins does your

congregation struggle?

3. How does the passionate speech and action of Moses encourage us as we deal with these sins among us?

Taking this truth home

1. How does the account of the golden calf help you as you wait for the Lord?

2. Moses is a passionate leader of God's people. When the Lord called Moses, he was hesitant and wanted someone else to go (Exodus 3-4). How do you account for the change in Moses to the man we find in Exodus 32?

3. Agree or disagree: Some believers are just more passionate about God's Word than others. They are the ones that should speak for the Lord.

Summary

In this familiar account we see the sad history of God's people falling into sin. We also marvel that God would still reach out to his people through his servant Moses. This account also impresses on us the serious nature of sin and the need for us to speak seriously about sin and about the Savior.