



THE IDOL EXCHANGE

THE PROMISED LAND WEEK 4 | JOHN REILLY

Question: Do I view the Exodus account as outdated?

1 Corinthians 10:7

Do not be idolators as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.”

Exodus 32:1-6

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered themselves together to Aaron and said to him, “Up, make us gods 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.” So Aaron said to them, “Take off the rings of gold that are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.” So all the people took off the rings of gold that were in their ears and brought them to Aaron. And he received the gold from their hand and fashioned it with a graving tool and made a golden calf. And they said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!” When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made a proclamation and said, “Tomorrow shall be a feast to the LORD.” And they rose up early the next day and offered burnt offerings and brought peace offerings. And the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.

How did this happen? Stephen gives us a revelation in Acts.

Acts 7:39

Our fathers refused to obey him, but thrust him aside, and in their hearts they turned to Egypt.

Idols are carved into our hearts long before they’re carved with our hands.

→ Idolatry happens when we take something that is meant to be good and elevate it to the place God should occupy in our hearts.

Exodus 11:1-3

...“Yes one plague more I will bring upon Pharaoh and upon Egypt. Afterward he will let you go from here. When he lets you go, he will drive you away completely. Speak now in the hearing of the people, that they ask, every man of his neighbor and every woman of her neighbor, for silver and gold jewelry.” And the LORD gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians.

God gave them gold as a blessing and they turned it into an idol.

Question: Am I treating a resource like the source?

1 Corinthians 10:7

“The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.”

→ Idolatry can creep into our lives in the little, everyday moments.

1 Peter 2:1

Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.

Idols:

- Distort the truth
- Reshape us in their image
- Magnify our fears
- Demand endless sacrifice
 - **Matthew 16:25**
- Dull us to God’s presence
 - **Psalm 115:5-8**

→ When we turn our hearts to idols we take on their lifeless qualities, desensitizing ourselves toward God.

Exodus 32:20

He took the calf that they had made and burned it with fire and ground it to powder and scattered it on the water and made the people of Israel drink it.

→ When something in your life is causing you to sin, extreme measures are needed. God wanted them to taste the bitterness of their decision.

Idols die when we stop sugar-coating them and taste how bitter they really are.

Psalm 34:8

Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

Idols die when we taste the alternative.

→ Idols can’t be minimized or managed, they must be destroyed.