

## **Three Reactions to Sin**

### **Exodus 32:1-6**

People react differently to the same situation  
Given our differing personalities, backgrounds, etc  
Two or more people react totally different to the same situation  
In some instances, this has no lasting consequences  
Situation involves something sinful, obviously more serious  
Israel & golden calf **Exodus 32** illustrates this observation

### **The Sin**

Moses with God on Sinai receiving laws to govern Israel  
The people grow restless and approach Aaron with a plan **Exodus 32:2**  
Show their impatience, Already violation of God's recent prohibition - **Exodus 20:4**  
Aaron fashioned gold into a molten calf with a graving tool **Exodus 32:4**  
It is after this that we read of 3 ensuing reactions to this sin

### **God's Rejection Exodus 32:7-10**

Being omniscient, God was completely aware of what had taken place  
Notice carefully His first words to Moses **Exodus 32:7**  
Remember, God had challenged them when they arrived at Sinai to keep His covenant so that they could be His people  
Now that they have sinned, they are not His, said they belonged to Moses  
This tells us the painful truth, when in sin we are not God's people  
God had every intention of obliterating the Hebrews  
Begin again with descendants from Moses **Exodus 32:10**  
This Divine reaction to sin was wholly justified and appropriate.

### **Moses' Compassion Exodus 32:11-20,26-30**

Moses shows his mettle after hearing God's reaction to Israel's sin  
Pride would have made God's offer of starting the Hebrew nation over with him as the ancestor instead of Abraham very appealing  
Moses was not that type of man  
He plead with God to have mercy and remember the covenant He had spoken with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob **Exodus 32:11-13**  
Yet, Moses would also show some righteous indignation  
Descending from the mount with the tablets in hand, he forcefully threw them down and shattered them  
He then ground their precious calf into powder, cast it upon the water, and forced Israel to drink **Exodus 32:19-20**  
Later, he ordered a "blood bath" for those guilty of perpetrating this disobedience of God's sacred law  
~3,000 were slain by Levites who stood with Moses **Exodus 32:25-28**  
Finally, Moses instructed Israel to **Exodus 32:29**

He reminded them of their great iniquity

Pledged to approach God hoping to make atonement **Exodus 32:30**

After all Israel had done to him since leaving Egypt, & this great catastrophe, he still loved them enough to seek their salvation

Moses illustrates the proverb love the sinner, hate the sin

### **Aaron's Accusation Exodus 32:2,5,21-25**

This is the saddest reaction in our trilogy

Aaron should have resoundingly said, "NO!!"

But, he did not - He asked for the gold & He fashioned the calf

After hearing Israel's words about the calf, he even proclaimed a feast day to Jehovah with calf worship **Exodus 32:5**

Most incredible thing about Aaron's part was when he was confronted

First, he blamed it all on the people **Exodus 32:22**

If that wasn't enough, he concocted a lie **Exodus 32:24**

Imagine look on Moses' face when he heard this?

How often we see this reaction when people are confronted with sins?

They blame someone else

They come up with far-fetched tale to cover themselves

Then expect others to believe them

No, Aaron couldn't wiggle out of this one

The Scripture tells us the blame rests squarely on Aaron **Exodus 32:25**

### **This Was Indeed One Of Israel's Saddest Days**

Aaron a disappointment to his brother, & more so to his God

It reminds us once again that sin is never a good idea

It always fails

Yet, we are also reminded of the great mercy God is willing to extend when a righteous advocate pleads our case before Him - **Hebrews 7:25**

May we remember this when we contemplate sin

If we fail like Israel and Aaron, may we truly "dedicate ourselves" and seek our Advocate, Jesus Christ the Righteous - **1John 2:1-2**

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