

Fresh Oil Releases

Dealing With Idolatry & Golden Calves

Recently, the Lord woke me up, telling me that the spirit of harlotry is what leads men into idolatry and that this spirit needs to be dealt with in His Body. He began to unfold for me the scenario that was happening at the foot of Mt Sinai, while Moses was up in the clouds for 40 days and 40 nights. Moses and Aaron were leading the people out of Egypt and then Moses had disappeared up into the cloud. and the people were waiting for him to come back with the word of the Lord in detail. He took a very long time and they got tired of waiting. The Word tells us, in Exodus 32, that they went to Aaron and said 'arise, get up and make us gods that we can worship and go before us'. Aaron said, "Give me your gold earrings from your sons and daughters" and the Word says that he actually crafted and engraved the golden calf with his own tool and set it up. Aaron called it a feast unto the Lord and the people danced around the calf and feasted.

Now previously, in Exodus 24:10, it tells us that Aaron and the elders had gone up the mountain with Moses and they saw God. So Aaron had actually seen God with his own eyes and it is absolutely appalling that he would even think of agreeing to making a god with his hands that they could worship. Yet he yielded to the people's demands for instant gratification and he actually carved it according to his own understanding - we learn later on in the New Testament that he made it according to the gods of Egypt. Now Aaron was the one that went to Pharaoh with Moses and saw God's judgment on the gods of Egypt with his own eyes. During the seventh plague, those that didn't bring their cattle in to a place of protection were stoned with hailstones and because a warning to take cover was issued beforehand by the Lord, those who feared the Lord were separated from those who didn't. Yet here we see that Aaron himself, having even seen the judgments of God in Egypt, did not have the fear of the Lord in his own heart, because he was willing to fashion yet another Egyptian god for these people. It is disconcerting to think that even people who have witnessed the mighty hand of God moving can be lacking the fear of God in their hearts. Aaron was governed by the fear of man, seeking rather the approval of the people than that of God.

The Lord has been showing me the application of this - Jesus came from Israel, the Promised Land, and he went to the Jordan River, which was the dividing line between the wilderness and the Promised land, He was baptized in the baptism of John. When he came up out of the water, the Spirit alighted on Him and He was affirmed by the voice of God, saying "this is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased". Then the Word says that the Spirit drove Him into the wilderness.

Now this is a strange thing, because you would think that, having been affirmed and having God's seal of approval on Him, He would go back to the Promised Land and begin his ministry, because there were people that had started following Him. John had said "this is the Lamb of God:" and the disciples of John began to follow Jesus and then Jesus disappeared into the wilderness for 40 days, just like Moses disappeared into the cloud for 40 days. Now what were those disciples doing when Jesus was nowhere in sight for 40 days? We find that John was still baptizing. He never actually became a disciple of Jesus even though Jesus was the fulfillment of everything John had ever preached. Even today in the Church we find men of God unwilling to decrease and relinquish their ministry positions even though the season has changed and what they have predicted is coming to pass before their eyes. Although John was part of the preparatory era; although John had been told by God that when Jesus appeared, he must decrease and Jesus must increase, John was still baptizing. The administrations and practices of the John dispensation

carried on, probably because Jesus was nowhere in sight and it felt better to be doing something seemingly productive while Jesus wasn't visibly doing anything!

In the same way, the season changed when the people of God had been brought out of Egypt and into the wilderness. They came out with silver and gold from the Egyptians. Among these things there were earrings that had been on the Egyptian ears. These earrings represent teachings that tickled the ears in Egypt. The Egyptians were wearing them in their own ears. Of course slaves did not have gold, so, before they left Egypt, the people of God did not have gold earrings in their ears. They must have put them in their ears when they left Egypt. When they demanded of Aaron to make a god, it was the Egyptian earrings, the teachings that had tickled the ears of the Egyptians that Aaron told them to release to him. He fashioned a god to their liking that they could worship, according to his natural understanding. Now Aaron had seen the gods of Egypt, the statues, the things they worshipped made with hands, so according to his natural human understanding and his understanding of the gods of the system they had just come out of, he fashioned a god in that shape and likeness and engraved it, using his own tools. He was governed in his interpretation by the seen and not the unseen!

At the very same time, Moses was up the mountain and God was engraving with the finger of God on the tablets of stone. So God was not idle at this time when the people of God could see and hear nothing from God. God was busy engraving on the tablets of stone and conversing with Moses, but there was no visible manifestation, so the people decided that they would rather have a god that they could see with their eyes and touch. They wanted a god which would appeal to their senses, to worship.

I have to say this, that I feel very much that the Church of today is guilty of the self-same sin that we find here in the people of Israel. Jesus ascended up to the cloud and his disciples were told he would return in the same way. Much time has passed and the people of God in the Church today have got tired of waiting for a manifestation of His return so they have hungered for a god that they can see, something visible that they can dance around during a feast to the Lord. And this has been crafted according to the understanding of man by those who are stewards over God's people, using the teachings that have tickled the ears of Egypt. We have called it a feast unto the Lord but it is actually a calf that is standing in the midst of God's people and in the name of God they are worshiping this idol.

We read in Exodus 32:5 that when Aaron looked at the calf he had made, he built an altar before it. So Aaron obviously approved of his handiwork and considered it worth worshiping. He had modeled a thing with human hands and human understanding, based on the gods of Egypt and was telling the people you are going to feast to the Lord but you are going to worship the golden calf, which is really confusing. Do we not see the same practice in the Church of today? We put together teachings and concepts which look good to the eye of those involved in crafting them and then we build an altar before the latest doctrine or fad and tell the people this is where they must bow their knee and worship. Beloved, the Church today is full of the writings of man and we have been worshiping an idol shaped largely to appeal to our flesh.

In spite of Aaron's mixed message, the people follow his instruction; verse 6 says they bring burnt offerings, peace offerings, they eat and they drink and they dance and they rise up to play. This really made the Lord angry because He said to Moses, "the people have corrupted themselves". God had just told them previously not to make idols before Moses went up the mountain, for 40 days and 40 nights, and already the people have begun to do it. Their own fleshly desires were stronger than the fear of God in them and God was very angry and said, "get down, I am going to destroy these people". Moses had to intercede for them.

Moses went down the mountain with the tablets that have been written by the finger of God. Exodus 32:16 says that the tablets were the work of God; the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets. I want you to understand that the writing was not the writing of man but the writing of God. The golden calf represents the writing of man, because that word that is used when it says Aaron 'crafted' the calf means 'to write with a pen'. So we see that there has been a god that has been created by the writing of man that the people are worshiping and feasting around, but then the real writing, the writing of God, that has been written up on the mountain in the cloud, now comes down.

Jesus said

Mar 7:6 ... Well has Isaiah prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, "This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. Mar 7:7 However, they worship Me in vain, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."

The Message translation puts it in more graphic terms, saying, 'They just use me as a cover for teaching whatever suits their fancy, ditching God's command and taking up the latest fads!'

On the way down the mountain, Joshua says he hears a noise. He thinks it is a sound of war and victory and Moses says it is not a sound of victory; it is a sound of people singing. That word 'sing' in Exodus 32:18 actually means 'to abase, to depress'. People are degrading themselves by the way they are worshiping idols. So Moses comes down and he is really angry and says to Aaron, "what do you think you are doing?" and he makes this pathetic excuse saying, "The people wanted gods, I threw the gold in the fire and out came the golden calf!" In other words, he makes it sound like there was a supernatural manifestation, as if he wasn't personally involved in the shaping of this thing; that it just came out of the fire by itself. In the same way today, many leaders, when confronted, insist their particular golden calf has a supernatural origin!

Then it says:

Exo 32:25 Moses saw that the people were naked; (for Aaron had made them naked unto their shame among their enemies:)

Now listen, when you are uncovered among your enemies, you are in a bad place. This worshiping of the golden calf that Aaron had allowed the people to undertake; this action by the man with stewardship over God's people at that time, had made the people naked unto their shame amongst their enemies. Sadly, the same truth applies to much of today's Church. Those with stewardship over God's people have participated in fashioning a worldly form of religious practice, tickling the people's ears and as a result, God's people are abased and naked among their enemies - and they are not even aware of it.

Exo 32:26 Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who is on the LORD'S side? let him come unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him.

So there was a dividing line that was drawn among the people of God; they had to choose whether they were on the Lord's side or on the side of the golden calf. They had to choose whether they would walk in the fear of God or in idolatry and the fear of man - and it says the sons of Levi, (they were the future priests of Israel) responded by gathering themselves together with Moses. Then he commanded them, by the Word of the Lord, that every one of those sons of Levi should take his sword and slay every idolatrous man in the camp. It says they were consecrating

themselves to the Lord by destroying idolatry in the camp. Three thousand men were killed that day. People of God, the same call sounds out over the camp today. Those who are on God's side MUST now decide to make it plain, even though it brings separation amongst the people of God. A dividing line has been drawn and the measure being used is the fear of the Lord. Which side will you choose to stand on?

It says in Exodus 32:20, Moses took the calf that they had made, threw it into the fire, ground the resulting lump of gold into powder, cast it on the water and made them drink of it. This speaks of the writings that were crafted with the tool of Aaron undergoing a refining purifying process by fire, then further refining by blows, into small pieces. Now what is that a picture of? It is a picture of the idolatrous form of worship, shaped by the hand of man, passing through the Refiner's fire and being reduced to powder and then being cast upon the water of the Word and God's people, having to drink of it. The people of God are made to taste the consequences of their idolatry.

We read a few chapters back, that Moses (and Joshua) were separated from the other elders and called up into a place of intimacy in the cloud:

Exo 24:16 And the glory of the LORD abode upon mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days: and the seventh day he called unto Moses out of the midst of the cloud. Exo 24:17 And the sight of the glory of the LORD was like devouring fire on the top of the mount in the eyes of the children of Israel. Exo 24:18 And Moses went into the midst of the cloud, and got him up into the mount: and Moses was in the mount forty days and forty nights.

It was only on the seventh day that this separating call came. Beloved, we are in the seventh thousand year period since creation. This separating call has been made and those who have responded have been in a time of intimacy in the midst of the cloud of His presence. There the Lord has been giving instruction and writing His words on the tablets of their hearts. The glory of the Lord and the devouring fire have been at work in their lives, refining and shaping vessels fit for the Master's use. Those who have been up on the mountain, Mount Zion, with God, have been through a 40 day type of period of learning to rightly divide the Word. The tablets of God were written within and without. There has been an inner and an outer change coming upon this company of people. It's the same experience Jesus had in the wilderness dealing with the temptations.

It is now time for the manifestation of Christ, the full counsel of God, to come forth from within the cloud of witnesses, just as Moses and Joshua emerged from out of the cloud. Those that have the handwriting of God, written with the finger of God, upon their hearts, must come forth from their place of hiddenness at this time. The welfare of the people of God is at stake for they are uncovered in the midst of their enemies. I see that there will be a holy anger in the hearts of those who speak out the cloud of witnesses and these ones are going to take the idol which God's people are dancing around and destroy its form and comeliness. The whole idolatrous structure, the writings of man concerning God and the Church, are going to be cast into the fire, ground into powder. The people of God are going to have to choose the fear of God and not continue in their idolatrous ways looking for a god to manifest in the visible realm, a god made with hands which appeals to the soul and the flesh. Only those that have their hearts rightly aligned as royal Zadok priests will be called to take the Sword of the Word, equipped with the understanding of the Word that has been gleaned while surrounded by idolatry on all sides, and destroy everything involved with the idolatrous system.

They will teach the people how to discern between what is clean and what is unclean because the people of God have lost the ability to do that. Because of idolatry that leads to spiritual

blindness, they have been worshiping an idol in the midst of the church system, thinking this is a feast unto the Lord. It is actually a feast of sensuality and depravity and they are uncovered in the sight of their enemies. So this Moses and Joshua company, or Jesus manifesting in the clouds, is going to bring a season of correct alignment, actually re-alignment - calling people into the fear of God as opposed to the fear of Man, calling people to stand on the side of the Spirit and not of the flesh. The Word of God is sharper than a two-edged sword, dividing between soul and spirit, bone and marrow, the thoughts and intents of the heart. There is a dividing between what is soulish and fleshly and what is of the Spirit in the Church. God is hanging a plumb-line of the sword of his Word in the midst of the Body at the moment.

Some things need to be laid to rest, because continuing in the old ways of tradition past the season of transition is idolatry and causes one to end up in prison and confused as to the purposes of Christ (just like John the Baptist)- John said, "and are you he or should we look for another?" The church of Christ is in that place of idolatry and worshiping the old ways and not wanting to lay it down. The John the Baptist way of thinking has to be removed from the church. We have carried old ways along with us because they appealed to our senses - they have made us feel good but now they have to be thrown in the fire. The ways of the past seasons in the Church have become so ingrained, we feel compelled to produce something that is visible, something that is measurable, something that can be touched, something of golden color - so we make use of teachings that tickle the ear. The calf is an offspring of a cow and the golden calf is the offspring of the holy cows of the Egyptian mindset, fashioned in an appealing form and called 'a feast to the Lord'. This is an abomination because calling what is evil, good is perversity - and it causes the anger of God to wax hot against His people.

There is a call going out, "who is on the Lord's side?" and people are having to choose to stand for God and to use the sword of the Word to deal with idolatry. It is not going to be an easy thing, because these are their brothers, these are their fathers and they are having to use the sword of the Word to bring death to certain things that are prevalent in the church, at a great personal cost to themselves and yet it is going to be necessary to do this because one cannot have the people gathering around a golden calf, offspring of the holy cows of Egypt, and thinking they are gathering to the Lord.

That is an abomination.

Note that the thing that was used to deal with the golden calf was fire, to try every man's work - so there are some things that are going to be burnt up, some things are going to be ground to powder, so they lose their former shape and form and comeliness. The people of God are going to be drinking the water of the Word with pulverized remains of their idols scattered upon it. It is going to be a season of great dividing and separating.

In Hosea, God speaks about the spirit of harlotry, and explains how harlotry and new wine cause people to lose their perspective. This thing that the Church has been worshiping while waiting for the reappearance of Jesus, has caused them to become dull of spiritual understanding. It is a great tragedy.

Hos 4:11AMP Fornication and wine and new wine take away the heart and mind and spiritual understanding. My people seek advice from their idols, and their rod declares to them. For the spirit of harlotry has caused them to go astray, and they have gone lusting away from under their God.

There is a verse in Amos that says a man, which is the Lord, is setting a plumb-line in the midst of

his people Israel and he is not going to pass by or overlook sin anymore and I have to say that in this day there is a plumb-line amongst God's people and God is not going to wink at harlotry and idolatry. We are the Bride, and are to be wholly separated unto God.

There had to be a death of the Egyptian ways and Egyptian mindset and Egyptian teachings before there is the promised land of intimacy and revelation. There has to be the grinding up of the golden calf, there has to be dealing with what the church has set up. If that is not dealt with, there will be no victory over our enemies.

God is about God's agenda.

He's not about the church's agenda, he's not about the world's agenda and everyone who will align himself to God's agenda will walk in victory and deliverance, but for those who don't, there is no protection upon them.

Beloved, it is time to choose the fear of the Lord and to cry out to the Lord for eye-salve for our blinded eyes, that we may see that we are poor and naked in the midst of our enemies. It is time for the vessels who carry the writing of God upon the tablets of their hearts to emerge. Even though their hearts will be broken like the tablets were smashed, when they begin to deal with the idolatry permeating the Church; even though there will be great personal cost, we must align ourselves to the plumb-line in the midst of the Body at this time. Our own lives and the welfare of the Body are at stake.

Selah