

1 Kings 12:28

Therefore the king asked advice, made two calves of gold, and said to the people, "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, O Israel, which brought you up from the land of Egypt!"

If you have ever read the Old Testament, or have heard the story of Moses and the Children of Israel crossing the desert, today's verse may sound familiar to you. Let's look at the same thing that happened to the children of Israel in the book of Exodus as we just read in today's verse.

† ***Exodus 32:1-6 Now when the people saw that Moses delayed coming down from the mountain, the people gathered together to Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make us gods that shall go before us; for 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." And Aaron said to them, "Break off the golden earrings which are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." So all the people broke off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them to Aaron. And he received the gold from their hand, and he fashioned it with an engraving tool, and made a molded calf. Then they said, "This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!" So when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made a proclamation and said, "Tomorrow is a feast to the LORD." Then they rose early on the next day, offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.***

So you think that the Children of Israel would have learned by now, but they didn't. In fact, if you read the two accounts, Aaron made just one calf, but king Jeroboam made two calves to worship and proclaim as their gods.

It's so easy to judge these things, yet we need to stop and look at our own lives and think about how many times God has told us not to do something, yet we did it anyway, and some have even made it a way of life.

Maybe you are putting another person ahead of God by being in sin with him or her. Sure, we think of those having sex or even living together outside of marriage (be it straight or gay), either way it's sin and is wrong. But what about those you go out and party with, you may not have sex with them, but you still put them before God, because you do what they want you to do with them (Drink, party, drugs, R or X rated movies, etc...) even though you know God says not to do them.

You have made this, or these people your golden calf that you formed into what you want to be your god, and you think by doing so that it makes these things okay, instead of following the true God who has delivered and even died for those sins you now worship as a golden calf.

† **Deuteronomy 8:19** *Then it shall be, if you by any means forget the LORD your God, and follow other gods, and serve them and worship them, I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish.*

I know this may not be a make you feel good devotional today, and I will not apologize for that, because sometimes we (including myself) need that cold splash of water on our face to wake us up to the things we are doing that we shouldn't be doing.

But there is a simple answer to this, and you already know what it is already, but read it again:

† **1 John 1:9** *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

Simply, get rid of those false gods you have set up in your heart and in your life and turn from your sins and confess them to God, who will forgive you when you confess them and turn from them. Once you do, then do what Jesus said to the woman who was caught in adultery. ***“Go and sin no more.”***

† **John 8:10-11** *When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."*

† **Ezekiel 14:4-5** *Therefore speak to them, and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Everyone of the house of Israel who sets up his idols in his heart, and puts before him what causes him to stumble into iniquity, and then comes to the prophet, I the LORD will answer him who comes, according to the multitude of his idols, that I may seize the house of Israel by their heart, because they are all estranged from Me by their idols."'*