

## Exodus 32:32

*Yet now, if You will forgive their sin--but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written.*

We are all familiar with who Moses is, you know the parting of the Red Sea, the Ten Commandments, etc.... Yeah, we all know him, but did you know that Moses had an older brother, in fact he was three years older than Moses. Do you remember who that was? If you said Aaron, you are right... If you said Hector, you are wrong. 😊

As we read about Aaron in the book of Exodus, we read that he was to be the spokesperson for Moses, since Moses didn't want to talk because he stuttered or had a speech impediment.

† **Exodus 4:15-16** *Now you shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth. And I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and I will teach you what you shall do. So he shall be your spokesman to the people. And he himself shall be as a mouth for you, and you shall be to him as God.*

Also, before Moses went up on the mountain to meet with God, he left his big brother, Aaron, in charge of the children of Israel.

† **Exodus 24:14** *And he said to the elders, "Wait here for us until we come back to you. Indeed Aaron and Hur are with you. If any man has a difficulty, let him go to them."*

And when Moses was up on the mountain talking with God, a “*difficulty*” did come up.

† **Exodus 32:1** *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."*

Ok, so you are God's mouthpiece and Moses' big brother, and the people are coming to you freaking out because Moses is taking so long, and they want you to make a god for them. What do you do? The correct answer would be to stop the people and point them to the One and only GOD. But did Aaron do that? Nope.

† **Exodus 32:4-5** *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."*

So as you remember the story, God tells Moses to go down from the mountain and deal with this. And Moses does and finds the people partying and worshipping this golden calf that Aaron had made. Now instead of taking the blame for being a bad leader, what does Aaron do? Yep, he throws the people he was to lead under the bus.

† **Exodus 32:22** *So Aaron said, "Do not let the anger of my lord become hot. You know the people, that they are set on evil."* (underlined for emphasis)

Not only that, but Aaron lied to Moses like a five-year-old child would lie to their parents, with an excuse like when a parent asks if the child was eating cookies, and they say “what cookies” as crumbs fall out of their mouth.

† **Exodus 32:24** *And I said to them, 'Whoever has any gold, let them break it off.' So they gave it to me, and I cast it into the fire, and this calf came out.'* (underlined for emphasis)

Aaron, had one simple job, keep the people in line and he couldn't even do that,

† **Exodus 32:25** *Now when Moses saw that the people were unrestrained (for Aaron had not restrained them, to their shame among their enemies)*

I say all of this to now point us back to today's verse, and to note two things.

First is that when the children of Israel had a problem, Aaron offered the people a false god, which was a golden calf “*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!"*”

But when the children of Israel were in trouble, Moses offered himself to God in their place.

† **Exodus 32:32** *Yet now, if You will forgive their sin--but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written.*

Now stop and ask yourself, what type of friends are you hanging out with. Those who are like Aaron who will give you a shiny false god to follow after, but when trouble hits, they are quick to run and leave you on your own? It reminds me of what Jesus said.

† **John 10:12-13** *But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep.*

Or do you have friends that would give themselves for you and others, like Moses was willing to do for the children of Israel, and like Jesus did for us? Or better yet, we need to ask ourselves, which kind of friend are we?

† **John 15:13** *Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.*

† **Proverbs 18:24 (NLT2)** *There are "friends" who destroy each other, but a real friend sticks closer than a brother.*