

Exodus 32:35

So the LORD plagued the people because of what they did with the calf which Aaron made.

Wow, what a verse to start off a mid-week with, because when you read it, you realize that Aaron committed a horrible sin, causing the children of Israel to sin by worshipping a golden calf that he (Aaron) made, and he did it on purpose. And as we just read what happened to the people because of Aaron's sin "*the LORD plagued the people because of what they did with the calf which Aaron made.*"

Let's read how Aaron did that.

† **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.*

Even though we read very clearly that Aaron did this on purpose, yet Aaron still tried to hide his sin by saying in a sense that the people made him do it and that they gave him all this gold, and he threw it into the fire and, `BAM` out popped this golden calf.

† **Exodus 32:22-24** *So Aaron said, "Do not let the anger of my lord become hot. You know the people, that they are set on evil. For they said to me, 'Make us gods that shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.' 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."*

But we know that is not what happened, because as we read earlier that Aaron "*received the gold from their hand, and he fashioned it with an engraving tool, and made a molded calf.*"

Now how would you like someone like this to be your pastor, or even to be friends with him or her, as they are throwing you under the bus to save their own skin? But do you know what, even though we would not want a person like that to be our pastor or our friend, God is a God of second chances, and third and forth and so on, just like Jesus taught us.

† **Matthew 18:21-22** *Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven."*

So how did Aaron get a second chance?

Well, despite what he did, God made Aaron the High Priest, who would go into the Holy of Holies once a year on behalf of the children of Israel, being their representative to God for them.

† **Exodus 28:29** *So Aaron shall bear the names of the sons of Israel on the breastplate of judgment over his heart, when he goes into the holy place, as a memorial before the LORD continually.*

† **Exodus 30:10** *And Aaron shall make atonement upon its horns once a year with the blood of the sin offering of atonement; once a year he shall make atonement upon it throughout your generations. It is most holy to the LORD.*

Think about it, you are left to watch over the Children of Israel, and you mess that up by sinning and causing them to sin and worship a golden calf that you made, and what happens to you later? God trusts you to go into the Holy of Holies and come before Him (GOD) to atone for the same people's sins that you had caused to sin earlier. Now that's what I would call one of the ultimate second chances, but the that's our God!

So, the question for you today is, "Do you need a Second Chance like Aaron got?" You could probably think of something(s) that you had done which seems like it would be impossible to be forgiven of by God. But then once again, we think with our puny minds, and forget that we have an Awesome God who does the impossible all the time.

† **Luke 1:37** *For with God nothing will be impossible.*

Even Saul, who persecuted the Christians was forgiven by God, and God changed his name to Paul, and God used Paul in awesome ways to share the gospel, so much so that 2/3 of the New Testament books were written by Paul.

† **Galatians 1:23-24 (NLT2)** *All they knew was that people were saying, "The one who used to persecute us is now preaching the very faith he tried to destroy!" And they praised God because of me.*

So, have you led others astray? (like Aaron did)

Have you persecuted, and beat or even had Christians killed? (like Saul did)

Have you betrayed others to save your own skin? (like Aaron did)

Have you had sex with a married woman and had her husband killed to hide your sin? (like King David did)

Even if you had done any of these things, or even all of them, our GOD has overcome all those sins, as He sent His Only Son, Jesus, to pay for all of our sins on the cross That's why we all have a second chance, as well as a third, fourth and even a 490th (*Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven."* = 490) chances and beyond. All we need to do is confess our sins to Him and repent of those sins.

† **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.*