

## Exodus 32:4

*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!"*

There is a Far Side cartoon that has cows in a field, standing on their hind legs talking to one another, with one saying to the other cows "Car." The next picture shows those same cows on all fours, grazing in the grass as the car drives by. Speaking of talking cows, we have all seen those commercial on tv with the cows talking to one another. I don't remember what they were selling, but I do remember the cows talking to each other. There is even one commercial with a man talking to a cow and the cow talking back to him. These are all done and are meant to be funny, which they are.

Now, you may be wondering if I am obsessed with cows? The answer is, no, not at all. But as we read today's verse talking about how Aaron made a golden calf (cow), and we think about it, we never read in the bible of a cow thinking, or even saying, "*I wish they would make me into a god and worship me.*" I know that sounds weird or even a little funny, but if you think about it, it's not the cow's fault that Aaron decided to make a molded image of it for Israel to worship, instead of the true GOD. In fact, the calf was something that was offered to God as a sacrifice, yet Aaron turned the sacrifice to God into a man-made god.

Now the reason I say these things, is because some Christians treat Christian worship bands or singers like a golden calf (cow). The Christian band or singer does not want to be worshipped, rather they know that they are the object used to direct the worship to God, wanting to bring or direct believers before the Throne of God to worship GOD. Yet how many worship the bands or singers and sometimes even the song (The offering) more than God?

"*Not me*" you may be thinking.

- How many times do we tell others about this great Christian band or singer that we think is so wonderful, yet we are silent when it comes to talking about Jesus Christ?
- How many times do we sing the songs compared to how much we pray or read our bible?
- Do we turn up the song when it comes on, but then turn down the conversation when it comes to Jesus?
- Will we miss church because we are just too tired to go, or will we be late for church because we were up too late the night before, but would get there early for this band or singer's concert, even though we are beat after a long hard work week?

I remember years ago a song was written called "The Heart of Worship" by Matt Redman, with the chorus being:

*I'm comin' back to the heart of worship  
And it's all about You  
It's all about You, Jesus  
I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it  
When it's all about You  
It's all about You, Jesus*

The song is about how we (the Church) have added so much stuff to our worship, that it is no longer worship, and it's turned into a bunch of fluff with the name of Jesus added into a song. People heard that and it changed their hearts for a while, until they turned the song into an idol and worshipped the song more than Jesus.

Even the Children of Israel, took the things of God, and turned them into an idol. Think of the golden calf in today's verse, and if you read about how after the Children of Israel entered the Promised Land, they still continued to make a golden calf an idol that they worshipped.

As we also read in the bible about how they made an object of healing a thing of worship, as you will remember that while in the wilderness, they were being disobedient to the Lord; therefore, the Lord sent snakes to bite them. Yet, in God's mercy, He had Moses make a pole with a snake on it, and when a snake bit them, all they had to do was look at it, then they would be healed of the snake bite and not die. Yet later they took this object of healing and worshipped it.

† **2 Kings 18:4** *He removed the high places and broke the sacred pillars, cut down the wooden image and broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made; for until those days the children of Israel burned incense to it, and called it Nehushtan.*

So, throughout the bible, we read of those who have taken the things of God and turned them into idols. Paul even addresses this with the Romans.

† **Romans 1:22-23** *Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man--and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.*

† **Romans 1:25 (NLT2)** *They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise! Amen.*

Simply, Christians have turned a thing of worship (The Christian band/singer, or even a song) into an idol, because when you put them before the Lord, then you are saying that they, or even a song is more important than the Lord, because if you sing the words, but don't live them, then you are worshipping a song because you like the way it sounds or how it makes you feel, instead of signing it to God from your heart.

† **Psalm 51:16-17** *For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart-- These, O God, You will not despise.*

† **Isaiah 42:8 (NLT2)** *I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not give my glory to anyone else, nor share my praise with carved idols.*