

All that glitters... is not God

Introduction

Moses has been gone for 40 days on Mt. Sinai, and the people are getting restless. The old fears are hard to shake. Maybe God isn't with them anymore. What if Moses is already dead on the mountain? Who will be there for us? Who is looking out for us? What false gods cry out when we're afraid of the present or the future?

Discussion Questions

1. What insights caught your attention in this week's sermon?
2. Has someone you loved ever gone missing for a time? How did it make you feel? When you found them, how did you feel?
3. Moses had been gone 40 days. If you're an Israelite out in the wilderness with no leader, how would you feel? On a scale from 1 to 10, how's your faith doing?
4. Back in chapter 24, the Israelites hear the Ten Commandments, and they loved them! Now, it appears that they've been all but forgotten. What has changed?
5. So, Aaron comes up with an idea, but it's not really a new idea. Where is the inspiration coming from for the golden calf? Are the Israelites still enslaved to their old life?
6. We wrestle with the golden calf as well. What are some of the things that seek our full attention, our worship? What are the things that we make into gods?
7. In this story, God is ready to wipe the Israelites off the map. God's anger is fierce at Israel's idolatry. How does Moses change the channel as it were? How does Moses calm God down?
8. We learn that God's promises work both ways. They are to be remembered and trusted by God's people and also by God. What are some of God's promises that you'll always remember? How does it encourage your faith to remember them?

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Travel Pack (a few items to help you this week)

Head (memory verse): [Jesus said,] "I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep and my sheep know me..." –John 10:14

Hands (acts of faith): *Don't make a golden calf this week!* Instead, think about an image that encourages you and inspires you on your Disciple's Path.

Heart (prayer): Thank God for being the only true God. Thank God for being a keeper of promises.