



Walking in the *Foot Prints* of Jesus A Discipleship Journey

The OLD TESTAMENT- Their Story is Our Story **The Golden Calf** **Exodus Chapter 32, Week 11**

So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a festival to the Lord." They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.

The Lord said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'"
Exodus 32.3-8

So goes the story of The Golden Calf in the Old Testament, from the Book of Exodus. Moses was on Mount Sinai with the Lord. God was speaking with Moses about the Covenant that He was making with the Chosen People of Israel. God crafted two tablets of the covenant made of stone that Moses was to bring back down from the Mount to the people. However, the Hebrew people grew tired of waiting for Moses to come back to them. They became impatient, so they petitioned Aaron to sculpt them a new god that brought them out of Egypt. As you know, The Golden Calf did not go over well with the Lord or Moses. God wanted to punish the people, but Moses begged the Lord to be merciful. The Lord granted Moses' request.

I believe that we have all heard of the saying...Patience is a virtue. Well, it truly is. The saying originally comes from a poem from around the year 1360. However, even before that poem was written, patience was mentioned countless times over in the Bible. It is perhaps one of the most important character qualities talked about in the Bible.

How many times in our lives have we lost our patience? Some people do it more than others, but it ultimately happens to all of us. We lose patience with our parents, siblings, spouses, children, co-workers...and the list goes on. We do this because we are too busy and think that we are in control. Typically, we will lose our patience over something silly or over something that some people tend to call "first world problems". We lose our patience over bad cell reception, traffic jams, having to wait too long to check out at the grocery store, and items like that. These are problems that folks from third world countries wished were the only ones they had to worry about. Instead, people from poor countries get impatient around things like: Where will I get my next meal? Where am I going to sleep tonight?

God invites us to put our lives into His loving hands. The Lord will do the heavy lifting for us. After all, His burden is easy, and His yoke is light.

Is losing patience a problem in my life? If so, why is that? What changes do I need to make in my life to become a more patient person? Am I putting things into God's hands?

