

# Exposing The Golden Calf

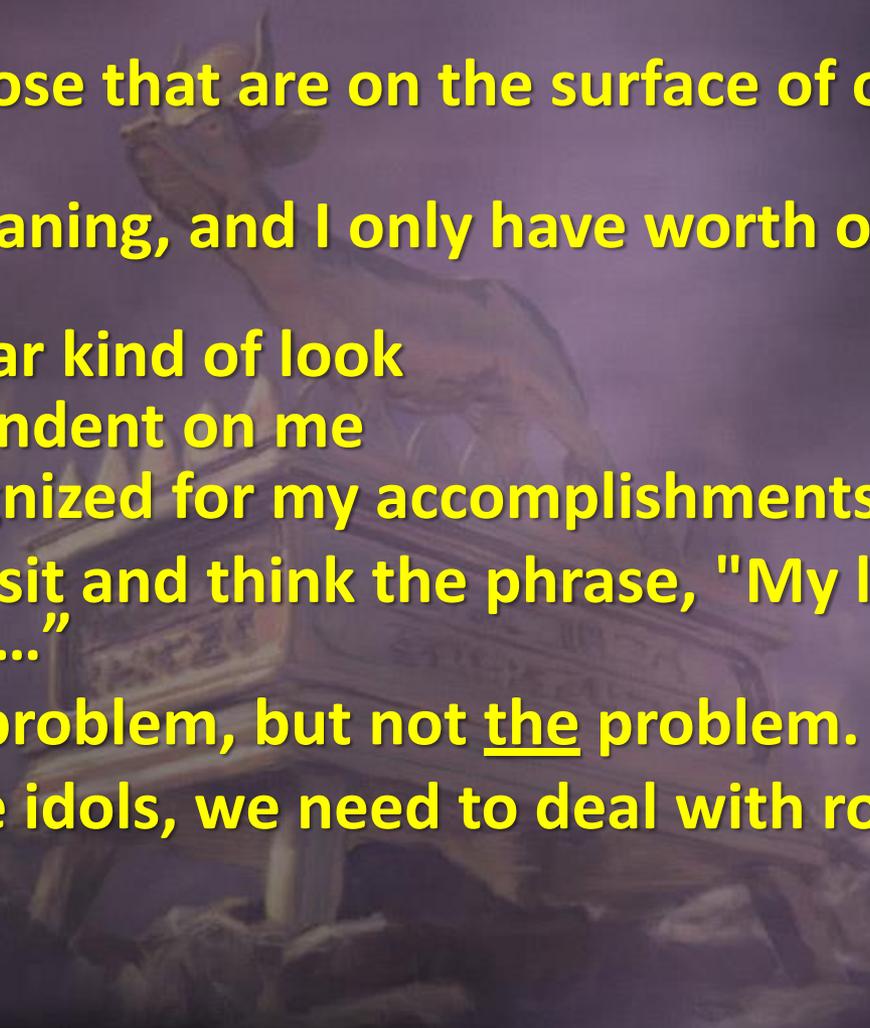
Exodus 20:1-17



# Idolatry Defined

- When you break any of the commandments, you are making something else of greater importance than God.
- It is the subtlety of our idols that makes it possible for them to infiltrate our lives.
- Idolatry is valuing something more than you value God.
- Often idols take the place of God without us even realizing it.
- Satan uses our worship of good things to dethrone God.

# Surface Idols

- Surface Idols are those that are on the surface of our lives.
  - My life only has meaning, and I only have worth or value if...
    - I have a particular kind of look
    - People are dependent on me
    - I am being recognized for my accomplishments
  - None of us actively sit and think the phrase, "My life only has meaning if..."
  - Surface Idols are a problem, but not the problem.
  - To deal with surface idols, we need to deal with root idols.
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- A statue of a bull standing on a pedestal, symbolizing a surface idol. The statue is made of a dark material, possibly bronze or stone, and is set against a dark, textured background. The bull is facing left and has its head slightly raised. The pedestal is rectangular and has some inscriptions on it, though they are not clearly legible. The overall scene is dimly lit, with a purple and blue color palette.

# Comfort Idolatry

- Someone who has a comfort idol wants - comfort.
- Your greatest nightmare is encountering stress or demands.
- The person who worships comfort causes others to often feel hurt or neglected.
- When we pay the price of productivity for comfort others feel like they don't matter.
- The biggest emotional problem they experience is boredom because we are not designed to just sit around doing nothing all day every day.
- To worship comfort counterfeits the peace we find in Christ.

# Power and Approval Idolatry

- Power Idolatry worships success, winning, or gaining influence over others.
- When one worships success, it's not just about winning, it's about not losing.
- A desire to be successful is okay, but it is a terrible god.
- Those who worship approval are seeking love, affirmation, and relationships.
- Approval idolatry depends on others and their approval of them to find worth in life.
- At the end of the day, when a desire for approval is so great, you will not end up pleasing anyone.
- The problem with Approval Idolatry is that fulfillment comes from the world rather than from God's love.

# Control Idolatry

- Those who worship control seek - control.
- When you seek self-discipline, certainty, or standards, it comes at the price of loneliness and spontaneity.
- The greatest nightmare for those worshiping control is uncertainty.
- Control Idolatry causes anxiety, worry, and fear to well up inside, which leads to clamping down on control to mitigate those feelings.
- The thought that, "If I want something done right, I'll just have to do it myself," is control idolatry.

# Conclusion

- When it comes to surface and root idols the solution is one word: Repent.
- Repenting of our idols and looking to Christ is the gateway to joy.
- When we own up to all that we do, we can then see so much better all that Christ has done for us.
- Thank God that no matter our sins, we have a Savior with whom we can walk in joy.