

Lesson 177: Walking with Jesus - Part 9 (Do not worship false gods or idols.)

Scripture: Exodus 32, 1 Kings 18

Verse: "Therefore, my friends, flee from idolatry." 1 Corinthians 10:14

There are many examples that illustrate God's Superiority and sovereignty in the Old Testament that demonstrate WHY He IS the Only One Worthy of our **worship**. Remember these examples from the Old Testament

Remember the story of the gold calf (Exodus 32)...

The Israelites **were quick** to forget that God is the One and Only True God. While Moses was up on Mount Sinai with God, the people talked Aaron into creating a false god – a calf formed from gold - for them to worship!

This story is a strong warning for everyone, because it illustrates that all people are broken by sin, with a heart that can't be trusted and quick to turn from Him. God is holy, and awesome and demands that we worship Him and Him alone, because there is no other god or idol that can do anything good for us.

Moses' response as he sought God's forgiveness for the people illustrates a healthy posture of worship: The Bible tells us that Moses immediately threw himself to the ground and worshiped. And he said, "O Lord, if it is true that I have found favor with you, then please travel with us. Yes, this is a stubborn and rebellious people, but please forgive our sins."

In bowing down, Moses showed reverence, recognizing God's supreme power. **In his words of praise**, he affirmed God's Good Nature and His mercy; and **in his plea**, he showed that He trusted God as a faithful provider, despite the Israelite's unfaithfulness. This is what true worship looks like!

Remember the story of God's defeat of the false god Baal at Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18)...

In this event, God showed his power, and at the same time exposed Baal as a false god by bringing down fire on His altar in response to Elijah's prayer. This came after 450 prophets of Baal prayed fervently for hours asking their god to light the fire of their offering, but Baal could not respond because he was a false god!

When the people of Israel witnessed God's awesome display of power, they fell face down (a sign of reverence) and exclaimed The Lord, HE is God!

In this display of power and glory, God returned to His rightful place of Lord in the hearts of His people. In the same way, God's rightful place in our households is Lord (Master, King, Ruler). And the only right response to God's glory and power is reverence, praise and obedience!

In his epistles (writings to the New Testament Church), Paul affirms that the Second commandment to worship God and God alone, remains as true now as it had when God revealed it to Moses at mount Sinai! (See 1 Corinthians 10)