

Test Five of the Ten at Mt. Sinai (Exodus 32)

Intro. Exo. 19:1, 19-20, 24:1-18)

Idolatry of the people (32:1-7, 21-28)

- Delay of Moses
- Defects in Aaron
- Disobedience of the people

Intercession of Moses (32:7-14)

- Report of the Lord - your people, quickly turned aside, your god from Egypt, obstinate people
- Response of Moses – Thy people, Thy testimony, remember Your promises
- Response of God

Immediate action of Moses (32:15-35)

- Down the mountain
- Dependable few + curse
- Deep prayer of Moses

Reflections and/or Applications

1. Delays are a favorite tool of God to test our heart and faith. Some delays are short and some are long but always purposeful. “None of those who wait for Thee will be ashamed” (Psa. 25:3). Delays are never an excuse for sin, and responses to delays reveal weaknesses in character or build a stronger faith.
2. Dealing with sin quickly is critical. Otherwise, it spreads and damages/corrupts more lives, and the body of Christ. Moses did act and got help from the tribe of Levi and God Himself.
3. Moses’ intercession contains tender concern for the nation he led, a passionate jealousy for the reputation of God, a deep love for one individual, and a remembrance of His promises to his forefathers. We can never understand the urgency of intercession until we see sin from God’s perspective. Moses was willing to stand or fall with his people without any gain for self.
4. Idols are substitute gods that create bondage, consume resources, and inevitably involve self-centeredness, self-inflation, and self-deception. “Guard yourselves from idols (1 Jn. 5:21) and Jeremiah 10:5.
5. The Levites who responded to Moses’ challenge of dealing with the sin quickly were only 1.4% of the whole nation. There is a critical need for those 1.4 percent today!