

Godly Response to Failure

July 18, 2021

Exodus 32:1-8, *“Now when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people assembled about Aaron and said to him, ‘Come, make us a god who will go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up from the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.’”* ² *Aaron said to them, ‘Tear off the gold rings which are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.’* ³ *Then all the people tore off the gold rings which were in their ears and brought them to Aaron.* ⁴ *He took this from their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool and made it into a molten calf; and they said, ‘This is your god, O Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt.’* ⁵ *Now when Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made a proclamation and said, ‘Tomorrow shall be a feast to the Lord.’* ⁶ *So the next day they rose early and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.* ⁷ *Then the Lord spoke to Moses, ‘Go down at once, for your people, whom you brought up from the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves.’* ⁸ *They have quickly turned aside from the way which I commanded them. They have made for themselves a molten calf, and have worshiped it and have sacrificed to it and said, ‘This is your god, O Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt!’”*

Exodus 32:9-11;13-18, *“The Lord said to Moses, ‘I have seen this people, and behold, they are an obstinate people.’* ¹⁰ *Now then let Me alone, that My anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them; and I will make of you a great nation.”* ¹¹ *Then Moses entreated the Lord his God, and said, ‘O Lord, why does Your anger burn against Your people whom You have brought out from the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand?’* ¹³ *Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants to whom You swore by Yourself, and said to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heavens, and all this land of which I have spoken I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’”* ¹⁴ *So the Lord changed His mind about the harm which He said He would do to His people.* ¹⁵ *Then Moses turned and went down from the mountain with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand, tablets which were written on both sides...* ¹⁶ *The tablets were God’s work, and the writing was God’s writing engraved on the tablets.* ¹⁷ *Now when Joshua heard the sound of the people as they shouted, he said to Moses, ‘There is a sound of war in the camp.’* ¹⁸ *But he said, ‘It is not the sound of the cry of triumph, nor is it the sound of the cry of defeat; but the sound of singing I hear.’”*

Exodus 32:19-24, “As soon as Moses came near the camp...he saw the calf and the dancing; and Moses’ anger burned, and he threw the tablets from his hands and shattered them at the foot of the mountain. ²⁰ He took the calf which they had made and burned it with fire, and ground it to powder, and scattered it over the surface of the water and made the sons of Israel drink it. ²¹ Then Moses said to Aaron, “What did this people do to you, that you have brought such great sin upon them?” ²² Aaron said, “Do not let the anger of my lord burn; you know the people yourself, that they are prone to evil. ²³ For they said to me, ‘Make a god for us who will go before us; for...Moses...who brought us up from the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.’ ²⁴ I said to them, ‘Whoever has any gold, let them tear it off.’ So they gave it to me, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf.”

1. **Aaron blamed the people.** “**THEY** forced me to do it, you know how **THEY** are.”
2. **Aaron lied to Moses.** “**IT’S NOT MY FAULT, I DON’T EVEN KNOW HOW IT HAPPENED**, I just threw the gold in the fire and out came this calf.”

Blaming others and lying are sinful and immediately begin to deteriorate relationships

Exodus 40:12-16, “Then you shall bring Aaron and his sons to the doorway of the tent of meeting and wash them with water. ¹³ You shall put the holy garments on Aaron and anoint him and consecrate him, that he may minister as a priest to Me. ¹⁴ You shall bring his sons and put tunics on them; ¹⁵ and you shall anoint them even as you have anointed their father, that they may minister as priests to Me; and their anointing will qualify them for a perpetual priesthood throughout their generations.” ¹⁶ Thus Moses did according to all that the Lord had commanded.”

1. **Even great people fail.**
2. **Failures are never forgotten but can be washed away.**
3. **Failure produces deeper spiritual growth, when responded to in godliness.**