

Dr. Selwyn Q. Bachus
Lord Have Mercy
Exodus 32:7-14
September 25, 2016

The sermon began with the retelling of the dramatic conclusion of a meeting that the Lord had with his people on Mt. Sinai. In this meeting, the LORD reminded the Israelites of their enslavement by the Egyptians, how He parted the Red Sea, and how He brought them to safety on dry ground.

When the Israelites reached Mt. Sinai, it was the LORD's desire to speak with his people, covenant with them and give them the Decalogue or the 10 Commandments. While on the mountain, the LORD calls Moses closer to him, leading him further up the mountain putting distance between him and the people. When Moses reached the appointed place, the LORD revealed to him the construction of the tabernacle, which would be the place where the LORD would reside as they traveled to the Promised Land.

The children of Israel were liberated in the wilderness for 90 days. Moses was on the mountain with the LORD 40 days and 40 nights, causing the Israelites to become impatient. Is there something wrong with this picture; lets see.

- The Israelites were enslaved for over 215 years
- They wandered free in the wilderness for 90 days
- They were asked to consecrate themselves for 3 days
- They became impatient after waiting on Moses for 40 days and 40 nights, they lost their minds and all Hades breaks loose in the camp

After all the LORD did for his people, they could not wait 40 days and 40 nights for Moses to return with a word from on high. The LORD's wrath burned with anger and He had every reason to be disappointed, frustrated, and angry.

1. They Were Wrong In Their Approach

They could have approached their dilemma with prayer and patience. Their faith failed them and they turned to Aaron to make them a god to go before them. Their choice was to abandon God after all he did for them.

2. They Were Rebellious Against the Lord

The Lord speaks to Moses about "his" people who have corrupted themselves. They turned aside from the ways of the Lord and became rebellious.

3. They Were Ungrateful in Their Attitude.

They were impatient, they approached Aaron to make a golden calf and Aaron did it without hesitation.

One has to wonder, with all the gold and silver used to make the golden calf, where did it come from? The Egyptians gave it to them as they were leaving Egypt and they plundered Egypt taking all they could carry.

The Israelites were so misguided that they took all the gold the LORD allowed them to possess and made an idol god to give glory to something greater than the LORD. They even give their golden calf credit for bringing them out of Egypt.

Hearing the noise coming from the camp, the LORD sends Moses down the mountain to see about “his” people for the wrath of the LORD was upon them. Moses pleads with the LORD to have mercy.

A. Lord Have Mercy and Remember Your Reputation

Moses asked the LORD to consider his reputation in the face of the people's rebellion. He asked the LORD, “Do you want the Egyptians to question your character and think it was a setup to destroy the people in the wilderness.” Lord have Mercy.

B. Lord Have Mercy and Remember Your Promise

Moses says to the LORD, this is more about You than it is about the people. Moses asked the Lord to remember Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and the promise He made to them. LORD you made a promise, you swore to yourself a promise to their forefathers, and Lord you don't change. Have mercy because you made a promise.

C. Have Mercy and Remember Their Potential

LORD you didn't just see their potential but you set their potential. Your word has sealed their potential. It was you LORD who set in motion the nation of Israel's potential and the Land of Promise they would inherit. If you destroy them now they will never accomplish all that you promised they would be.

The Lord has mercy on us today because he sees what we will be; He sees us in our future. LORD have mercy. The Lord did have mercy on the children back then, and he has mercy for us on today.