

March 9, 2021

Read Exodus 32

Key verse: Exodus 32:4

Aaron took the gold from them, formed it in a mould, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'

God Doesn't Need Bling

I'm curious what made gold so precious to humans. Aside from the fact that it's pretty easy to mould and it's quite shiny (it has "bling"), gold doesn't really have many practical uses; only about 10% of all the gold that is mined is used by industry, the rest being used for jewelry and is bought and sold as an investment.

But I suppose that the fact that gold is so shiny and malleable makes it attractive to us. I have seen beautiful ornaments and sculptures made with gold, and I believe that gifts of gold can express our love for others. But too often we use gold to adorn ourselves. We acquire jewelry to adorn our bodies and, if we're really wealthy, sculptures to adorn our homes, and so gold draws attention to ourselves as it kindles awe and admiration (and perhaps some envy) from those who would notice it.

I appreciate the artists who would craft beautiful golden figures as a way of showing the glory of God, but during this season of Lent I'm reminded of where we see God's glory the most, and that is, I believe, in the cross of Jesus Christ. Not a smooth, shiny golden cross, but a rough wooden cross, upon which Jesus was nailed. I believe that there is no image that better conveys the love of God for a people who are so prone to make gods of gold. It is in the sacrificial love of God where we see the most bling.

Prayer: Lord God, we can become so easily attracted to the shiny things of this world, but too often we make those shiny things our gods, just as we make ourselves gods. Help us not to be dazzled not so much by shiny objects but by the amazing love that you pour out upon your people. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.