

(Continued from Front Page)

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 And 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."

This tragic experience highlights the caution that Christians are required to maintain in relation to their possessions. **Israel used this great blessing from God to make an idol which God opposed!** There is much in our society that we may enjoy but material things can also pose grave dangers when we use them without thought. We are supposed to be "strangers and pilgrims on the earth" (Heb. 11:13), and we must not become so captivated with "the riches of Egypt" that we grow satisfied and forget our true purpose.

Let us make sure we use our material blessings to serve the Lord. Remember we are to follow the giver of our blessings and not the blessings themselves!

— Shane Williams

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Times of Assembly:

Sunday:

Bible Class 9:45am
Morning Worship 10:45am
Evening Worship 5:30pm

Wednesday:

Bible Class 7:30pm

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The Lilbourn Light



"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" -Psalm 119:105



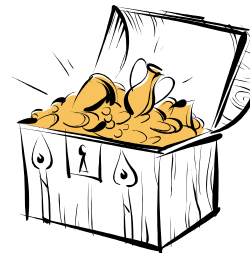
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Gods of Gold

In Exodus 7-11, God had seized the attention of Pharaoh and the Egyptians with a series of plagues. Now they were "dying" to be rid of their Hebrew slaves. God didn't expect the Israelites to leave Egypt empty-handed (Ex. 3:21-22). So they asked their former masters for articles of silver, gold, and clothing, and they got them. In fact the text (Exodus 12:36) says that the Israelites "plundered the Egyptians."

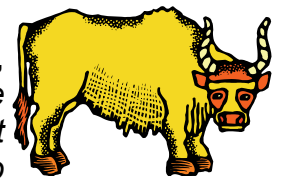


It wasn't

long, however, until God's people fell into idolatry. They used their gold to make a golden calf, which they worshiped while Moses was on Mount Sinai receiving the law (32:1-4).

Exodus 32:1-4,

"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 And Aaron



(Continued on Back Page)

Close to God

Psalm 15 lists the characteristics of a person who can "abide" in God's tabernacle and "dwell" in His holy hill. This was the psalmist's way of describing his experience of knowing God's closeness and power. Such a person, he said, is upright, truthful, and righteous (vs. 2-3). He despises evil, honors the godly, keeps vows no matter what, lends money unselfishly, and refuses to take bribes (vs. 4-5).

As Christians, we are grateful that Jesus died so that we might be forgiven and be reconciled with God. However let us not forget that Jesus also suffered and died to be an example for us (1 Peter 2:21-24).

1 Peter 2:21-24, *"For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, 22 who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth; 23 and while being re-*

viled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously; 24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed."

Because of His sacrifice we are to "die to sin & live to righteousness." We must love Him so much that we are willing to turn from any-

thing that is not Christ-like. Paul said, *"Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity"* (2 Tim. 2:19).

Of course, we need help. We must continually pray for God's help, fill our minds with His Word, and rely upon one another. As we do, God will become a greater reality in our lives and we will be like the person in Psalm 15 who dwelled close to God.

— Shane Williams

One Person

Oftentimes we don't think much about what we can do individually. We can also be convinced that that talking about the gospel to one person, encouraging, or comforting one person doesn't count for much. That, however, isn't supported by what we read in the Gospels. Even though Jesus' ministry was limited to 3 years, He was never "too important" to deal with one person at a time.

Certainly Jesus preached to multitudes in Judea, fed 5,000 people gathered by the Sea of Galilee, and ministered to the crowds in Capernaum. Yet, He never lost sight of the value of one soul!

How encouraging it is to read of His conversation at night with an individual named Nicodemus (John 3) – One person yet a ruler of the Jews. We read of His visit with one woman at the well of Samaria (John 4) – Many Samaritans believed because of her. What of His personal interest in one little man Zaccheus, who was sitting up in a

He was never "too important" to deal with one person at a time.

sycamore tree (Luke 19)? How thrilled he must have been when Jesus singled him out of the multitude and said, **"Zaccheus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house"** (vs. 5).

If you are ever tempted to minimize the value of what you can do as one person or what you can do to

help one other person, remember Jesus' example. The Bible says (Luke 15:10) there is joy in the presence of the Angels of God in heaven over one sinner who repents!

— Shane Williams

God's Plan for Saving Man

- ⇒ **Hear** the Gospel (Romans 10:17)
- ⇒ **Believe** the Gospel (Hebrews 11:6; John 20:31)
- ⇒ **Repent** of Past Sins (Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30)
- ⇒ **Confess Faith** in Christ (Romans 10:10; Matthew 10:32)
- ⇒ **Be Baptized** in water (Acts 2:38; Mk. 16:16; Gal. 3:27; 1 Pet. 3:21)
- ⇒ **Be Faithful** until/ unto Death (Rev. 2:10)