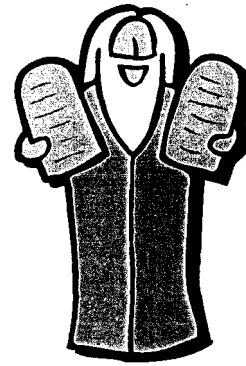


A Prayer in the Wilderness

Exodus 32:9-14

9 Moses, I have seen how stubborn these people are,
10 and I'm angry enough to destroy them, so don't
try to stop me. But I will make your descendants into
a great nation. 11 Moses tried to get the LORD God
to change his mind: Our LORD, you used your
mighty power to bring these people out of Egypt.
Now don't become angry and destroy them. 12 If you
do, the Egyptians will say that you brought your
people out here into the mountains just to get rid of
them. Please don't be angry with your people. Don't
destroy them! 13 Remember the solemn promise you
made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. You promised
that someday they would have as many descendants
as there are stars in the sky and that you would give
them land. 14 So even though the LORD had
threatened to destroy the people, he changed his mind
and let them live.



- Why didn't God give his covenant people the prosperity and success they wanted?
 - We don't appreciate what we don't earn.
 - God's kingdom isn't always about prosperity.
 - Success is measured in relationships, not conquests.
 - Hardships often forge a stronger faith than easy roads.
 - God gives us what we need, not necessarily what we want.
 - Other
- What are the "golden calves" in our lives?
What are the "false gods" of the 21st century?
 - Material possessions
 - Comforts and conveniences
 - Putting all our energies into our own agendas
 - Superficial priorities
 - Resisting the notion that we're sinners
 - Rejecting the notion that God has a claim on our lives
 - Other
- It's nice to know that if God ever decides to destroy us for our stubbornness, he will still be faithful to our children! (vs. 10)
- Which statements do you agree with?
 - Prayer changes things for us.
 - Prayer changes us.
 - Prayer can impact others.
 - Prayer can change situations—even those beyond our control or understanding.
 - Prayer can influence God's decisions.
 - Prayer gives us control.
 - If you have enough faith, your prayer will be answered.
 - God knows what I'm thinking. I don't need to actually take time to pray.
 - Other
- Does God seek to kill his followers?
 - The wages of sin is death!
 - God's holiness demands justice.
 - We die spiritually when we separate ourselves from God.
 - The threat of death can clarify our priorities!
 - Our God is a God of life!
 - God wants to save us, not to kill us.
 - Other
- When have you felt the power of prayer? What are some of the situations in which you've felt God's hand in your life?
 - The illness or loss of a family member
 - A struggle within a relationship
 - Looking for a sense of purpose
 - When I felt far from God
 - When I needed to make a change
 - When I was worried or concerned for someone.
 - When I needed God's comfort or reassurance.
 - A loss of job or income
 - Other