

- I. The Golden Calf (verses 1-6)
 - A. Moses is on the mountain in God's presence (see Exodus 24:18)
 - B. The replacement god
 - C. Religious moderation (see Exodus 24:5)
 - D. Idolatry: service of something other than God in order to procure blessing

- II. The Intercessor (verses 7-14)
 - A. "Your people"
 - B. The loving leader (see Exodus 2:11-15)
 - C. Moses' prayer for mercy to Israel
 - D. The Lord relents

- III. Moses' Anger (verses 16-24)
 - A. Moses and Joshua head down the mountain
 - B. God's wrath is replaced by Moses'
 - C. The tablets (see Exodus 20:1-17; see Deuteronomy 4:13)
 - D. Breaking the tablets of the covenant
 - E. Drinking the calf
 - F. Aaron's lameness
 - G. The Levites' Ordination

- IV. What leaders have to do
 - A. Leaders must lead
 - B. Leaders must intercede (see Genesis 12:2; Exodus 32:31ff.; Deuteronomy 9:25)

- V. The lure of idols
 - A. Idols are replacement *mediators* (see Psalm 106:20; Exodus 20:23)
 - B. The calf functions as savior
 - C. Not eliminating God, redefining him
 - D. Find your idols: any means by which you seek God's blessing apart from our mediator
 - i. what are the areas of unambiguous sin in your life?
 - ii. what do you fear?
 - iii. what do you spend your money on? (see Exodus 12:33-36; 25:3)
 - E. Idolatry always rewrites history, or our life story
 - F. Idolatry happens when we are furthest away from Christ

- VI. The true Mediator
 - A. God vs. the people - "Israel's election is at stake" (Childs, 567; see Exodus 32:31-34)
 - B. Jesus Christ is our mediator
 - C. He brought us a covenant that will never be broken (see Ezekiel 36:26-27)