



Sin's Attraction

God's deliverance of His people was astonishing. Supernatural plagues. Miraculous rescue through the Red Sea. A cloud by day. A pillar of fire by night. Water from the rock. Bread from heaven.

No sooner has God given these blessings to his children, then they fell into disobedience, starting at the very top of the Ten Commandments and flaunting rule #1: "You shall have no other gods before me." They choose an artificial image of their own making over God, flaunting rule #2: Do not make yourself idols of any kind.

I am surely not the only parent who has uttered the words, "What did I just say?" You spend time explaining the rules, that you don't hit girls, you don't bathe the cat ... and then five minutes later you turn around, see what they're doing, and you say: "What did I just say?"

The words of God had not stopped echoing on the mountain. The dust had not yet settled from carving the tablets. Moses' knees had not stopped shaking, and there they are, dancing around an idol. Surely, God must have hit his forehead, closed his eyes, and said, "What did I just say?"

The attraction of sin is something each of us must reckon with. Things haven't changed when it comes to the effects of sin. And if you don't think so, listen to Aaron when Moses confronted him about the golden calf. He was caught red-handed, and this was his response:

Aaron answered, "Don't be angry, master. You know that these people are always ready to do wrong. The people said to me, 'Moses led us out of Egypt, but we don't know what has happened to him. Make us gods who will lead us.' So I told the people, 'Take off your gold jewelry.' When they gave me the gold, I threw it into the fire and out came this calf" (Exodus 32:22-25)!

Did you hear what Aaron said? He gave Moses the same excuses we use today when we try to diffuse mistakes, or deflect bad choices:

- a. "You know how it is ..."
- b. "What have you done for me lately?"
- c. "Well how did that happen?"

The nature and effects of sin never change – it pulls us away from God and if we're not careful, sin wreaks havoc in our lives and the lives of those around us.

Reflection:

1. Where is sin's greatest attraction in your life?
2. Who is helping you deal with sin's attraction?
3. What excuses do you offer for sin in your life?