



Lenten

Reflections

The Divine Intervention

March 10, 2016

Scripture

Exodus 32: 7-14

The LORD said to Moses,

“Go down at once to your people
whom you brought out of the land of Egypt,
for they have become depraved.

They have soon turned aside from the way I pointed out to them,
making for themselves a molten calf and worshiping it,
sacrificing to it and crying out,

‘This is your God, O Israel,
who brought you out of the land of Egypt!’

The LORD said to Moses,

“I see how stiff-necked this people is.

Let me alone, then,

that my wrath may blaze up against them to consume them.

Then I will make of you a great nation.”

But Moses implored the LORD, his God, saying,

“Why, O LORD, should your wrath blaze up against your own people,
whom you brought out of the land of Egypt
with such great power and with so strong a hand?

Why should the Egyptians say,
'With evil intent he brought them out,
that he might kill them in the mountains
and exterminate them from the face of the earth'?
Let your blazing wrath die down;
relent in punishing your people.
Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel,
and how you swore to them by your own self, saying,
'I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky;
and all this land that I promised,
I will give your descendants as their perpetual heritage.'"
So the LORD relented in the punishment
he had threatened to inflict on his people.

Our Scripture Reflection

Idolatry is THE major sin exhibited in the Bible by God's people. Idolatry occurs when we put something or someone in what should be God's exclusive place in our hearts and minds. Think about it: addictions, materialism, etc., are all expressions of idolatry. Even though God has every right to wipe His rebellious people off of His earth, He relents and forgives them. How can we possibly say "Thank you"?

Food for your Journey

Do you remember the scene from the old movie *The Ten Commandments*, when the people of Israel start worshiping the golden calf while Moses is up on the mountain? The tempter who incites them into this idolatry is a sleazy character named Dathan, played with smarmy gusto by Edward G. Robinson.

Director Cecil B. DeMille's image of the Israelites' debauchery borders on the comical. The shiny golden calf hung with flower garlands, the writhing bodies of the worshipers in their weird ritual dance, the image of a shapely woman draped across the altar at the idol's feet, passed out in pagan ecstasy -- these are hardly the sorts of temptations that trouble the souls of modern people of faith.

Avoiding such temptations is child's play. It's the temptations that don't gleefully trumpet their presence with Hollywood fanfare that we have to worry about.

Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, May I rid my heart and mind of all that distracts me from loving and adoring You above all. Amen.

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