

almost equals

Exodus 32:1-6
September 11, 2016

“Up, make us gods who shall go before us. As for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.”

-Exodus 32:1

I. MEET AARON AND MOSES

- Aaron was Moses’s older brother and was chosen by God to be the “mouthpiece” for Moses (Ex. 4:14-16; 6:20, 26-27; 7:7).
- Moses, Aaron and the elders of Israel ate a covenant meal with God, but only Moses was allowed to approach him (Ex. 24:1-2).
- Moses and Aaron worked side by side, and Aaron was put in charge when Moses was away from the camp of Israel (Ex. 24:14; 32:1-6).

II. SIMILAR, YET DIFFERENT

- Moses and Aaron, although sharing many things in common, also demonstrated distinct personalities.
 - *Moses had a low self image but high potential.
 - *Aaron had a high self image yet lower potential.
 - *Moses stood firm under pressure.
 - *Aaron conformed when under pressure.
- Aaron sought the favor of men; Moses sought the favor of God (Ex. 32:11-14; 22-24).
- Moses demonstrated true humility (Ex. 32:30-33; Num. 12:3).

III. THE GREATNESS OF HUMILITY

- Humility makes a great leader, and a great Christian (Matt. 11:29; 23:12; Eph. 4:2; James 4:10; 1 Pet. 5:5-6).
- True humility only comes through transformation (Rom. 12:1-3).

KNOW: A humble dependence upon God leads to wisdom and to a life lived out in conformity to Christ, not to the world.

DO: Ask God for humility. Then practice it.

Suggested Reading:

Humility: True Greatness, by C.J. Mahaney

From Pride to Humility: A Biblical Perspective, by Stuart Scott

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read Exodus 32:1-6

1. Talk about some of the people you know who appear to you to be truly humble people. What stands out about them?
2. Read Exodus 32:11-14 and 32:30-34. What “tact” does Moses employ as he intercedes for Israel?
3. See Exodus 32:10. What was God offering Moses? How would you fare if the same offer was made to you?
4. Talk a bit about Aaron. What type of man do you think he was? He ends up becoming the first priest of Israel and the father of the priestly line. Does that say more about Aaron or more about the mercy of God?
5. Why do you think that humility leads to wisdom and wise choices? What is the correlation?
6. What steps can you take in order to learn and practice humility? Are you willing to take them?