



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

An Intervention of Love July 16th, 2017

(Exodus 32:15-29)

¹⁵ Moses turned and went down the mountain with the two tablets of the Testimony in his hands. They were inscribed on both sides, front and back. ¹⁶ The tablets were the work of God; the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets. ¹⁷ When Joshua heard the noise of the people shouting, he said to Moses, "There is the sound of war in the camp." ¹⁸ Moses replied: "It is not the sound of victory, it is not the sound of defeat; it is the sound of singing that I hear." ¹⁹ When Moses approached the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, his anger burned and he threw the tablets out of his hands, breaking them to pieces at the foot of the mountain. ²⁰ And he took the calf they had made and burned it in the fire; then he ground it to powder, scattered it on the water and made the Israelites drink it. ²¹ He said to Aaron, "What did these people do to you, that you led them into such great sin?" ²² "Do not be angry, my lord," Aaron answered. "You know how prone these people are to evil. ²³ They said to me, 'Make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him.' ²⁴ So I told them, 'Whoever has any gold jewelry, take it off.' Then they gave me the gold, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf!" ²⁵ Moses saw that the people were running wild and that Aaron had let them get out of control and so become a laughingstock to their enemies. ²⁶ So he stood at the entrance to the camp and said, "Whoever is for the LORD, come to me." And all the Levites rallied to him. ²⁷ Then he said to them, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Each man strap a sword to his side. Go back and forth through the camp from one end to the other, each killing his brother and friend and neighbor.' " ²⁸ The Levites did as Moses commanded, and that day about three thousand of the people died. ²⁹ Then Moses said, "You have been set apart to the LORD today, for you were against your own sons and brothers, and he has blessed you this day."

1. Evaluate this quote from Prof. Mark Paustian: ***"Our current cultural narrative strives to reach a point where no one is condemned for who they are, or what they do."*** Give examples to back up your evaluation. Why do you think our society is striving to establish that kind of mindset?
2. **Explain:** "Our failures to confront/intervene when someone is caught in unrepentant sin always stem from our own breaking of the First Commandment."
3. Give some Biblical examples of people intervening for someone who was caught in sin. In what ways were those "interventions of love?" Feel free to give personal examples, if you feel inclined.
4. Evaluate Aaron's responses to Moses' intervention over his sin. Why do you think he responded that way? How do we offer the same kinds of excuses when we fail to confront people with their sin?
5. Do God's actions in commanding the Levites to kill display his mercy, or his justice? Did God have the right to make such a command?
6. **Agree/Disagree:** It is always better to lovingly confront a person over their sin as soon as you hear about it, rather than waiting.
7. In what ways is intervening when someone is caught in sin a loving action? How could that intervention fail to be loving? How does loving Jesus more than that person ensure your intervention will be loving?