

3. Faithfulness: ¹³ Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel, to whom you swore by your own self: 'I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and I will give your descendants all this land I promised them, and it will be their inheritance forever.'

a) "God's faithfulness means that God will always do what he has said and fulfill what he has promised. He can be relied upon, and he will never prove unfaithful to those who trust what he has said." - Grudem

b) Numbers 23.19; 2Samuel 7.28; Psalm 141.6; John 14.6; 17.7

c) We get confused when we become disconnected from truth. Lies and misinformation are the bedrock of confusion - did God really say...

Conclusion

The story of the golden calf is a case study in faithfulness: the faithfulness of God in the face of Israel's unfaithfulness.

Despite our adulterous hearts born of fear, ignorance, and confusion and our return to sin and shame God never abandons us. He never leaves us or forsakes us. He never gives up on us.

No matter what.

Amen.

Do It Again - Elevation Worship

Walking around these walls I thought by now they'd fall
But You have never failed me yet
Waiting for change to come
Knowing the battle's won
For You have never failed me yet

Your promise still stands
Great is Your faithfulness, faithfulness
I'm still in Your hands
This is my confidence, You've never failed me yet

I know the night won't last
Your Word will come to pass
My heart will sing Your praise again
Jesus You're still enough
Keep me within Your love
My heart will sing Your praise again

I've seen You move, You move the mountains
And I believe, I'll see You do it again
You made a way, where there was no way
And I believe, I'll see You do it again

And You never failed me yet
I never will forget
You never failed me yet
I never will forget

Marriage has a unique place because it speaks of an absolute faithfulness, a covenant between radically different persons, male and female; and so it echoes the absolute covenant of God with his chosen, a covenant between radically different partners.

Rowan Williams

No Matter What
Exodus 32
July 15, 2018

Introduction:

What causes us to be unfaithful towards God?

1. Fear:

- When Moses was gone too long the people lost hope. The word for realized more accurately means dismayed; it only took 40 days to forget
- Daniel 3.7

2. Ignorance:

- Aaron acted without inquiring of God
- Jeroboam makes golden calves -- 1Kings 12.25-30
- Psalm 106.19-24

3. Confusion:

- The last scene merges the elements of pagan idolatry with the stipulations and instructions they had received from God
- Romans 1.21-23

How does God respond?

He is going to bring judgment upon the people, but Moses intercedes. Moses appeals to three aspects of the character and nature of God:

1. Omnipotence: ¹¹ Why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand?
 - a. Omnipotence means ‘all powerful’. Whereas the people became impatient and then fear filled, God is never out of control or unaware of what’s going on. This allows him to be patient.
 - b. 2Peter 3.9; Romans 2.4; Exodus 34.6; Nehemiah 9.30
 - c. The people tried to take control of their situation, but the situation was never out of control.
2. Goodness: ¹² Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth’?
 - a. God is the standard of all that is good and all that is good is measured against God. What God approves is good. Therefore, God cannot act with evil intent. God cannot do or be evil.
 - b. Sinning is in our nature, but God calls His people to be holy. Israel fails; they go back to what they know. Romans 7.21ff.
 - c. So what hope is there for us?
 - i. Romans 8.1 moves us to Romans 12.9-21