

"What were you thinking!" When might someone say that to you? It's usually when you did something without thinking it through. You set a glass of grape juice on the white carpeting. You tried to jump a ramp with your bike without using your hands. You thought that no one would notice the missing lamp that broke when you were playing catch with that ball in the living room. What were you thinking? Moses must have felt that way when he saw what the Israelites were doing. God must feel that way when he sees the things we do. Let's see another one of those "What were you thinking?" moments in the life of the Israelites and how God reacted.

What were you thinking?!?!

Read & Review

Read Exodus 32:1-6

1. What did the Israelites ask Aaron to do and why?
2. Remember what we studied last time! Which commandment were they ready to break?
3. How did Aaron respond to their wicked request?



Answers

1. Moses was taking too long coming back from Mount Sinai. He had been up there for 40 days! So they asked Moses' brother Aaron to make them a gold statue they could use to worship the Lord.
2. The very 1st Commandment! God had said, "You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything... You shall not bow down to them or worship them: (Exodus 20:4,5).
3. He made a gold statue for them to use as a way to worship the Lord.

Read Exodus 32:7-14

4. Look carefully at verse 7. What did the Lord call the Israelites?

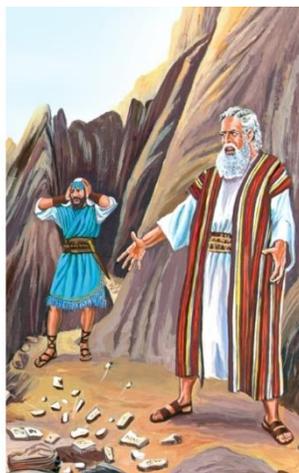
5. What "offer" did God make Moses when he saw the way the Israelites were acting?

6. Why did Moses say that he could not accept God's "offer?"

Read Exodus 32:15-24

7. When Moses and Joshua came back to the Israelite camp, what did Joshua think was happening?

8. What did Moses do when he saw what was going on in the Israelite camp?



9. What was Aaron's excuse for doing what he did?

10. What did Moses do with the golden calf?

Answers

4. He called them "your people". It was almost as if the Lord didn't want to claim them as his own because he was so embarrassed by the way they were acting.

5. God said that he would destroy the Israelites and make Moses into a great nation.

6. God had made a promise to Abraham's family that they were to be his chosen people. Moses knew that God could not break that promise. Moses passed God's test! Moses was not going to get in the way of God doing what he had promised. He trusted God could even fix this!

7. The Israelites were being attacked! It was a war. This indicates just how chaotic and out of hand the Israelites had gotten!

8. Moses was so disgusted by what he saw that he smashed the two stone tablets on which God had written his law.

9. Not his fault! He didn't have much of a choice because the people were evil.

10. Ground it up and made the Israelites drink its dust.

Read Exodus 32:25-33:1

11. How did the Levites help put a swift end to this rebellion against the Lord?

12. While the Israelites suffered the consequences of their sin, what amazingly did the Lord still allow the Israelites to do?

Read Exodus 34:1

13. What did the Lord graciously give the Israelites through Moses?

Answers

11. The Lord said to kill anyone who was leading or living in rebellion against the Lord. Allowing these people to live would lead others into their same sin.

12. They were allowed to continue their journey to the Promised Land! The Lord forgave their sin!

13. A new set of stone tablets on which God wrote the Commandments for his people.

His Word in Your Life

There are plenty of times in our life when God could look at what we did and could say, "What were you thinking?" See if you can match the situation on the left with what God might say on the right?

You get caught shoplifting (stealing something from a store).

Haven't I told you to respect those in positions of authority!

You get caught cheating on a test.

Haven't I promised to provide for everything you need!

You post something mean about a teacher.

Haven't I given you your mind and abilities to use!

You tell your parents that your brother broke the lamp when you really did it.

Haven't I told you to help protect and care for your neighbor's property!

You and your friends throw eggs at someone's house.

Haven't I told to be honest and protect other people's reputations!

While there may be consequences for each of those sins such as detention, suspension, grounding or paying to replace damaged goods, what is really amazing is the way God reacts to our sins. Look at the following passages to be amazed at God's forgiving love for you!

Romans 5:8 *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

Psalm 103:11-12 *For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.*

Hebrews 13:5 *God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."*

Jeremiah 36:3 *"I will forgive their wickedness and their sin."*

Catechism Connection



Read through pages 342-347 in your Catechism which describe what is called Confession and Absolution. Why does God call us to confess all those "What were you thinking?" sins to him? He's got a really good reason! Read through and see what absolution is about.

Interested in volunteering?

There are many ways you can serve at church:

Ushering/Greeting • Music instrumentalist/vocalist • Video Boards

*Email office@gsholmen.org to learn more about ways to serve.