

# GIVE ME YOUR GOLD



Moses has been up on that mountain far too long!

Never mind that we have just heard the voice of God and are scared to death.

Never mind that Mount Sinai still trembles and smokes.

The God of Moses makes us uncomfortable.

The God of Moses scares us.

And to make things worse, the God of Moses is invisible!

Aaron, you're the Priest. Make us a god we can live with.

A comfortable god.

## **"Give me your gold!"**

***When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered themselves together to Aaron, and said to him, "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."***

***And Aaron said to them, "Take off the rings of gold which are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." So all the people took off the rings of gold which were in their ears, and brought them to Aaron.***

***And he received the gold at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, and made a molten calf; and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!"***

*Exodus 32*

How could the people forget the voice of the living God which was still ringing in their ears?

How could Aaron switch so quickly from being a priest of the living God to a priest of a Golden Calf?



It happens all the time.

It's happening now before our eyes.

Is it happening to us?

### **The sudden switch from faith in God to faith in a Golden Calf....**

....to faith in an idol.

....to faith in a "designer god".

....a comfortable god.

Could it be happening to us?

### **"Give me your gold"**

The idols we devise are numberless. But most of them involve gold---money.

"I will give you a *Prosperity God*," says the famous preacher. "All you have to do is send in your prayer requests with a bit of cash."

"I'll give you a *Serenity God*," says the guru. "But you'll have to give me a little support, if you know what I mean."

"I'll give you a *God of Political Power*," says the evangelist. Then he turns to his staff and whispers, "But it won't come cheap."

The first thing Moses did when he came down from the mountain, was to take that golden calf and grind it to powder.

***And he took the calf which they had made, and burnt it with fire, and ground it to powder, and scattered it upon the water, and made the people of Israel drink it.***

*Exodus 32*



Had Moses not done this, the Israelites would never have made it to the Promised Land.

**Today that Golden Calf is everywhere.**



**It's in our churches.**

**It's in the halls of power.**

**It's in the hearts of professing Christians.**

Is it in us?

Like Moses before him, Jesus grinds the Golden Calf into powder wherever he finds it.

***“You cannot serve God and Mammon.”***

Jesus promises that if we seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness...

**... heaven will take care of all the rest.**

That's how he lived.

He never begged for money.

He never sent his disciples out with collection cups.

Yet Jesus and his disciples were always able to buy food and lodging and help some poor folks along the way.

For Jesus, money is the means by which God tests our faithfulness.

***“He who is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and he who is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much.***

***If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own?***

***No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other.***

***You cannot serve God and mammon."***

Luke 16

In Israel, whenever a God-fearing King came to power he would purge the land of idols.

**Whenever we submit to Jesus as Lord, he clears away our idols.**

**Without this cleansing we'll never make it to the Promised Land.**



Lord, have mercy!

*Prayer: Yes, Lord, have mercy on us. Help us to submit to you, purge the many idols out of our hearts...as individuals and as a Body. Help us to stop worshiping Mammon, help us to release our grip on it, to release our grip on the security we think it brings us. Help us not look to golden calves to help us. Stop our faith leaders from forming idols for us. Grind these idols to powder. Help us to trust you instead...even when we are uncomfortable with your will, even when we fear your voice and your power...even when we can't see you...even when the future looks so shaky. Help us to be faithful and honest in all that we have, faithful with all that you have given us; offering our gold to none but you...choosing you and only you as our master...to be devoted to you and to love you above all ...despising any thing, any person, any attitude, any belief that could be placed as idols in our hearts and interfere with the pursuit of your perfect Kingdom and your righteousness. Amen.*

Message: Richard E. Bieber ... September 2021  
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**Maranatha Mirror Messages**

[mmirror.net](http://mmirror.net)

[maranathamirror18@gmail.com](mailto:maranathamirror18@gmail.com)



THE LAMB  
WHO WAS SLAIN  
HAS BEGUN HIS REIGN