**CONFRONTING COMMON EXCUSES**

**LESSON 9 – OCTOBER 26, 2025**

It Just Happened!

**Key Verse(s):** Exodus 32:23 For they said unto me, Make us gods, which shall go before us: for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him. 24 And I said unto them, Whosoever hath any gold, let them break it off. So they gave it me: then I cast it into the fire, and there came out this calf.

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**Summary of the Biblical Event**

Though Aaron had been left in charge of Israel while Moses met with God on Mount Sinai, his leadership soon faced a great test. The people grew impatient when Moses delayed returning and demanded that Aaron make them gods to go before them. Instead of standing firm, Aaron gave in to their pressure and took their gold, fashioning it into a molten calf. When the people began to worship it, he built an altar and declared a feast to the Lord. Upon Moses’ return, Aaron tried to excuse his sin by saying he had thrown the gold into the fire and “there came out this calf.” His words were a desperate attempt to hide his failure, but sin never “just happens.” This is a convenient excuse that believers use when they make terrible and ungodly decisions. Aaron’s compromise and cowardice brought great sin upon the nation. Though his excuse could not erase the truth, his story reminds us that we must take responsibility for our choices and stand firm, even when it costs us. f



**Examining the Motives Exposing the Flaws**

* He was motivated to protect his reputation in front of Moses
* He saw more risk in admitting fault than faking an accident.
* He knew the attention would be on others involved in it.
* He expected none would be able/willing to dispute intent.
* His other actions gave his excuse some plausibility.
* Honesty will always do more to restore one’s reputation.
* Accidents rarely work as valid excuses, and God is the judge.
* Pointing to others never works to remove our personal guilt.
* Intention does not change a wrong choice into a right one.
* There is very little plausibility existing in this excuse.

**Effects of the Excuse**

**1. It allows us to avoid considering and confronting the real causes of our decisions.**

**Proverbs 14:8** – “The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way: but the folly of fools is deceit.”

**2. It teaches us an improper view of unseen forces in this world. (luck/coincidence/etc.)**

**Proverbs 16:33** — “The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the LORD.”

**3. It might blind us to the reason for reaping and cause bitterness or frustration.**

**Galatians 6:7** – “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.”

**4. What just happens “once” often has a way of happening again and again.**

**Ecclesiastes 8:11** – “Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.”



PERSONAL APPLICATION

**Verse:** Proverbs 14:8 – “The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way: but the folly of fools is deceit.”

**Reflective Questions:**

* Am I am ignoring steps that I am already taking toward a bad/sinful decision?
* Is there something I still haven’t taken ownership of because it was an accident?

**Commitment:**

* I will strive to be a prudent person.
* I will seek to understand (with God’s help) the reasons that failure happens in my life.

Why doesn’t Moses confront Aaron for giving this very lame excuse?

What was the Lord’s response to the excuse and actions of Aaron?

What are we often trying to say when we use this excuse in our lives?

Why would we pick this excuse as opposed to others more plausible?

Are there times where this answer might be an acceptable response to something that takes place?