

Reading for October 15th, 2023
Woodbury Methodist Church

A reading from the book of Exodus 32:1-14, Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23 and Matthew 22:1-15

32 When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron and said to him, "Come, make gods for us, 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." **2** Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters and bring them to me." **3** So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears and brought them to Aaron. **4** He took these from them, formed them in a mold,^[a] and cast an image of a calf, and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" **5** When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it, and Aaron made a proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a festival to the LORD." **6** They rose early the next day and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being, and the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to revel.

7 The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; **8** they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' " **9** The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. **10** Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation."

11 But Moses implored the LORD his God and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? **12** Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. **13** Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.' " **14** And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

Praise the LORD!

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,

for his steadfast love endures forever.

² Who can utter the mighty doings of the LORD
or declare all his praise?

³ Happy are those who observe justice,
who do righteousness at all times.

⁴ Remember us,^[a] O LORD, when you show favor to your people;
help us^[b] when you deliver them,

⁵ that we may see the prosperity of your chosen ones,
that we may rejoice in the gladness of your nation,
that we may glory in your heritage.

⁶ Both we and our ancestors have sinned;
we have committed iniquity, have done wickedly.

They made a calf at Horeb
and worshiped a cast image.

²⁰ They exchanged the glory of God^[a]
for the image of an ox that eats grass.

²¹ They forgot God, their Savior,
who had done great things in Egypt,

²² wondrous works in the land of Ham,
and awesome deeds by the Red Sea.^[b]

²³ Therefore he said he would destroy them—
had not Moses, his chosen one,
stood in the breach before him,
to turn away his wrath from destroying them.

22 Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ² "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴ Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' ⁵ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶ while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸ Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹ Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' ¹⁰ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹ "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹² and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' ¹⁴ For many are called, but few are chosen."

The Question about Paying Taxes

¹⁵ Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said.

This Scripture is the feast of Wisdom
Thanks be to God.