***The Living Temple***

**Worship Series – Week 2**

***The Golden Calf***

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| **WORSHIP SERVICE OUTLINE**SEach worship outline contains all elements needed for your worship service. The order of each service presented is only a *suggestion*. No doubt changes will be needed to accommodate the flow and worship style of your corps. The outlines are flexible and allow opportunities to “cut and paste” as needed. If you are blessed with instrumental or vocal music resources, you may find there is more structured material here than needed. It is recommended that the headings of each section of the service be included in the bulletin. |

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| **Drama – The Golden Café**  |

**Announcements**

**Call to Worship:**

Thomas Jefferson once said, “The price of liberty is eternal vigilance.” If that is true politically, how much more is it so spiritually? “Take heed,” Moses says three times in Deuteronomy, chapter 4. First, take heed and keep your soul diligently. Second, take heed that you not worship idols. Third, take heed that you not forget the covenant the Lord made with you.

These are all dangers for us today. How easily we get careless about the welfare of our souls. How easily we worship modern idols. How easily we forget the promises of the Lord. We, too, must take heed. The price of our spiritual strength is eternal vigilance.

(*Quiet Walk*, February 18, Online Bible Study Tools)

*Acknowledge and take to heart this day that the Lord is God in heaven above and on the earth below.* ***There is no other****.*  (Deuteronomy 4:39, NIV)

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| **HC#93 – Holy, Holy, Holy, (Nicaea)** | HC-93 | HCD8-T13 |
|  **Additional Optional Songs** |
| **HC#78 – Lord, I Lift Your Name on High** | HC-78 | HCD6-T18 |
| **SB#47 - O God, our help in ages past** | TB-127 – St. Ann | HTD5-T18 (4 vs.) |
| **HC#111 – Cry of My Heart** | HC-111 | HCD10-T11 |
| **HC#121 – Joyful, Joyful** | HC-121 | HCD11-T11 |
| **HC#157 – How Great is Our God** | HC-157 | HCD14-T17 |
| **HC#171 – Stand Up and Bless the Lord** | HC-171 | HCD16-T11 |
| **HC#191 – Be Thou My Vision** | HC-191 | HCD18-T11 |
| **HC#261 – How firm a foundation**  | HC-261 | HCD25-T11 |

***Worship God, His Way***

**Responsive Scripture:**

**Leader:** When Moses was in the mount, receiving the law from God, the people made a tumultuous address to Aaron. The Israelites were weary of waiting for the return of Moses.

**All:** *Now when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people assembled about Aaron and said to him, “Come, make us a god who will go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up from the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.”*

**Leader:** They were weary of waiting for the promised land. They thought themselves detained too long at Mount Sinai. They were weary of waiting for Moses, suspicious of his delay. And they were weary of waiting for a divine institution of religious worship among them so they would have a worship of their own invention, probably such as they had seen among the Egyptians.

**All:** *Aaron said to them, “Tear off the gold rings which are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.”3 Then all the people tore off the gold rings which were in their ears and brought them to Aaron.*

**Leader:** Aaron melted the gold and had a mold prepared, poured the melted gold into it, and then produced it in the shape of a calf, giving it some finishing strokes with a graving tool.

**All:** *He took this from their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool and made it into a molten calf; and they said, “This is your god, O Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt.” Now when Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made a proclamation and said, “Tomorrow shall be a feast to the Lord.”*

**Leader:** A feast of dedication, yet he calls it a feast to Jehovah, for, as brutish as they were, they did not design to terminate their adoration in the image; but they made it for a representation of the true God, whom they intended to worship in and through this image. And yet this did not excuse then from gross idolatry.

**All:** *So the next day they rose early and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.*

(Exodus 32:1-6, NIV)

**Leader:** As one might imagine, they were not engaging in ordinary eating and drinking and playing. These people were involved in a gluttonous, drunken debauchery! They did this in their ignorance and their impatience to get things moving. God was definitely not impressed, nor was Moses. What they did was very disrespectful to God; they attempted to configure the nature of God according to their own desires.

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|  **HC#127 – How Deep the Father’s Love for Us** | HC-127 | HCD11-T17 |
|  **Additional Optional Songs** |
| **HC#156 – Enter In** | HC-156 | HCD14-T16 |
| **HC#122 – Bow the Knee** | HC-122 | HCD11-T12 |
| **HC#117 – Draw Me Close** | HC-117 | HCD10-T17 |
| **HC#102 – Whiter than the Snow** | HC-102 | HCD9-T12 |
| **HC#279 – Draw me nearer** | HC-279 | HCD26-T19 |

**Prayers of Repentance (silent or spoken from the congregation)**

***A Willing Heart***

**Responsive Scripture:**

**Leader:** The building of the Tabernacle by the nation of Israel was utterly unique. No project like it had ever been done in the annals of human history, and the architect was none other than God Himself. Building it was a demanding and complex task. But the people rose to the occasion:

**All:** *Then Moses summoned Bezalel and Oholiab and every skilled person to whom the LORD had given ability and* ***who was willing*** *to come and do the work. They received from Moses all the offerings the Israelites had brought to carry out the work of constructing the sanctuary. And the people continued to bring freewill offerings morning after morning.*

**Leader:** The tabernacle is built by people giving their time, energy, skills, money, and possessions. We are wrong to think of Old Testament giving as dreary, dutiful legalism. On the contrary, the Israelites got caught up in the thrill of giving:

**All:** *So all the skilled workers who were doing all the work on the sanctuary left what they were doing and said to Moses, “The people are bringing more than enough for doing the work the LORD commanded to be done.”*

**Leader:** People gave more than enough and had to be restrained from giving to the tabernacle. The amount collected was huge, far more than what was needed.

**All:** *Then Moses gave an order and they sent this word throughout the camp: “No man or woman is to make anything else as an offering for the sanctuary.” And so the people were restrained from bringing more, because what they already had was more than enough to do all the work.* (Exodus 36:2-7, NIV)

**Leader:** This account in Exodus 36 shows the results when people earnestly seek God’s pleasure by giving freely. Even after the need had been met, the people kept giving, out of joy. They recognized that giving wasn’t simply to benefit the cause, but to benefit them as givers. It was an act of worship that defied logic. Theirs was an eager, childlike insistence on giving.

(*The 33 Laws of Stewardship,* page 106)

(*Money, Possessions and Eternity,* pages 140, 176-177, 319)

**Testimony**

**Tithes and Offerings**

 ***“I Will Dwell With Them”***

**Leader:** *LORD, who may dwell in your sacred tent? Who may live on your holy mountain? The one whose walk is blameless, who does what is righteous, who*

*speaks the truth from their heart; whose tongue utters no slander, who does no wrong to a neighbor, and casts no slur on others; who despises a vile person but honors those who fear the LORD; who keeps an oath even when it hurts, and does not change their mind; who lends money to the poor without interest; who does not accept a bribe against the innocent. Whoever does these things will never be shaken.* (Psalm 15:1-5, NIV)

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| **HC#186 – When I Look into Your Holiness** | HC-186 | HCD17-T16 |
|  **Additional Optional Songs** |
| **HC#126 – My Desire**  | HC-126 | HCD11-T16 |
| **HC#89 – Knowing You** | HC-89 | HCD7-T19 |
| **HC#199 – I Stand in Awe** | HC-199 | HCD18-T19 |
| **SB#290 – I have no claim on grace** | TB-181 – Chalvey | No CD |

**Intercessory Prayer/Pastoral Prayer**

**Message – The Lord Provides**

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| **SB#416 – Give me a holy life** | TB-192 – Nuttall | HTD9-T13 (3 vs.) |
|  **Additional Optional Songs** |
| **SB#? – Lord, I make a full surrender** | TB-650 – Full Surrender | No CD |
| **SB#428 – Jesus calls us! O’er the tumult** | TB-371 – Galilee | No CD |
| **HC#156 – Enter In** | HC-156 | HCD14-T16 |
| **HC#173 – In This Quiet Moment** | HC-173 | HCD16-T13 |
| **HC#160 – I Surrender** | HC-160 | HCD14-T20 |
| **HC#87 – Passion** | HC-87 | HCD7-T17 |
| **HC#77 – Change My Heart, O God** | HC-77 | HCD6-T17 |
| **HC#47 – As the Deer** | HC-47 | HCD3-T17 |
| **SB#25 – God’s love to me is wonderful** | TB-161 – We’d better bide a wee | No CD |
| **SB631 – What shall I do my God to love** | TB-86 – Fewster | HTD3-T13 (4 vs.) |
| **SB#632 – What shall I render to my God** | TB-86 – Fewster | HTD3-T13 (4 vs.) |

**Benediction: (Congregation in unison)**

*In the morning, LORD, you hear my voice;
   in the morning I lay my requests before you
   and wait expectantly.*

*For you are not a God who is pleased with wickedness;
   with you, evil people are not welcome.****But I, by your great love,
   can come into your house;
in reverence I bow down
   toward your holy temple.***

*Lead me, LORD, in your righteousness
   because of my enemies—
   make your way straight before me.*

*Let all who take refuge in you be glad;
   let them ever sing for joy.
Spread your protection over them,
   that those who love your name may rejoice in you.*

*Surely, LORD, you bless the righteous;
   you surround them with your favor as with a shield.*

(Psalm 5:3, 4, 7-8, 11-12, NIV)

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| **HC#112 – The Potter’s Hand** | HC-112 | HCD10-T12 |
|  **Additional Optional Songs** |
| **HC#109 – Total Praise** | HC-109 | HCD9-T19 |
| **HC#76 – Shout to the Lord** | HC-76 | HCD6-T16 |
| **SB#1035 – O Father, let thy love remain** | TB-11 | No CD |

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| **Week #2** |
| **DRAMA****The Golden Café****By Joe Caddy**© Copyright 2011 by Joe Caddy. All rights reserved. Used by permission. |
| **Topic:** | Stewardship; Tithing; Idolotry |
| **Scripture:** |  |
| **Synopsis:** | Two misguided churchgoers have a conversation about how they could improve the corporate worship at their church. |
| **Characters:** | Steve – Worshipper (Well-caffeinated)Jim – Worshipper (Pre-caffeinated) |
| **Props/Costumes:** | Modern day; A travel coffee mug & thermos for Steve |
| **Setting:** | Bare stage except a chair for Jim. |
| **Running time:** | 5-6 minutes |

[*Jim is asleep in his chair.*]

**Steve:** Morning, Jim.

**Jim:** [*Awakens incredibly groggy*] Morning already? Hardly seems like the sun could be up at such an ungodly hour.

**Steve:** Hmm. I’ve never heard anyone describe our church’s Sunday School hour quite like that before…but then again I’ve never seen you at church this early before. Are you on Daddy Duty?

**Jim:** Yeah, Sharon’s visiting her mother this weekend so I had get up at the crack of dawn to be sure the girls’ hair would be just perfect and they’d be dressed and ready in time for Sunday School. Did you know that 6 o’clock comes around twice a day now?

**Steve:** That is pretty early for a Sunday. I’m assuming that’s what you meant by [*air quotes*]“ungodly”?

**Jim:** Yeah. Sorry, it was just an unfortunate slip of the tongue. I didn’t mean any offense by it.

**Steve:** None taken.

**Jim:** My wife could tell you that I can’t be held accountable for *anything* I say before my first cup of coffee. I see that you’re currently enjoying yours…

**Steve:** Oh, no. This is at least number 4 or 5 for me.

**Jim:** Wow, that’s a lot of coffee, Steve-o.

**Steve:** I’m trying to cut back but the way that Sundays have been going lately, I’ve had to start bringing a second thermos for the Lord ’s Day…just to keep me Holy. [*Hands him the thermos*] Here you go.

**Jim:** Wow, thanks.

**Steve:** No problem. You look like you need it.

**Jim:** Tell me about it.[Takes a swig] I know what you mean about Sundays. It does seem like we’re kind of stuck in a spiritual rut or something.

**Steve:** [*Nursing his own drink*] Yep. A lot of the same old, same old.

**Jim:** Seems like we spend a lot of time wandering around in the desert and never really find the Promised Land, so to speak.

**Steve:** Yeah. Get to the point, already! I wouldn’t mind that the meetings were so long if they weren’t so unbearably boring!

**Jim:** Here, here. [*Raises the thermos as if to toast, takes another drink*] Yeah, what’s with that?

**Steve:** And what’s even more frustrating is that, at this time last year, everything here was going so well.

**Jim:** Wow! You are right! Was that only a year ago?

**Steve:** It seemed like there were a lot of great things happening here and the place used to be packed. What happened?

**Jim:** I don’t know but remember how everyone was talking needing to build a bigger building?

**Steve:** [*Takes another swig of coffee*] Ha! In this recession? That didn’t last long.

**Jim:** Yeah, no kidding. [*Takes a drink*] I don’t know what it is but everything lately has just been so ‘blah’…kind of like this coffee, man. What is this stuff?

**Steve:** I don’t even know. I think my eyes were still closed when I made it this morning.

**Jim:** [*Like an epiphany*] I just figured it out. You know what this church needs more than anything?

**Steve:** [*Sarcastically as he looks at the ceiling*] A new roof.

**Jim:** [*Also looks up*] Yeah, well, that. But even more importantly: [pause] a coffee shop.

**Steve:** [*Excitedly*] You know, I hear that a lot of churches are putting those in nowadays.

**Jim:** Think about it, people might actually want to hang around a little bit after the service and enjoy a cup or two in the name of fellowship.

**Steve:** I’d even be getting here early to have a couple BEFORE the service. Then I might actually make it through the entire service without falling asleep.

**Jim:** But that’s the beauty. When you’re feeling a little groggy you could just escape to the lobby to grab a little pick-me-up shot of espresso around sermon point 6.

**Steve:** Maybe if we gave some to the organist we could even get her to crank up the tempo on the hymns a notch or two.

**Jim:** That’d be perfect. I know a lot of people that choose their church based on their coffee.

**Steve:** Oh, I just thought of something! We could use the proceeds from selling the coffee could go to help make some much needed improvements around here.

**Jim:** Like more comfortable pews!

**Steve:** Or…to support the missionaries!

**Jim:** No, then we’d have to make it Fair Trade coffee.

**Steve:** [*A bit taken aback*] What’s wrong with that?

**Jim:** That stuff is *expensive.*

**Steve:** Oh yeah, you’re right.

**Jim:** But I think you and I should get free coffee for life because the coffee shop was our idea, right?

**Steve:** Of course. It’s the least they could do to say ‘thank you’!

**Jim:** [*Reveling in the idea*] Could you imagine if this place had a coffee shop? [*Drinks again, scowls*]

**Steve:** That’d be awesome. [*sips*] It wouldn’t actually make the worship services any more entertaining.

**Jim:** True.

**Steve:** And it still wouldn’t fix the hole in the roof.

**Jim:** Yeah. [*Pause*] But it would make both of those things a lot more tolerable.

**Steve:** And we’d all be a lot happier, that’s for sure. [*Resolutely* ]That settles it. We need a coffee shop.

**Jim:** I’ll drink to that.

[*They clink their coffee mugs together and take another drink which they can barely swallow*]

**Steve:** You’re right. There is definitely something wrong with this coffee.

**Jim:** Blech. You know what it kind of tastes like?

[*They look at each other as they come to the mutual conclusion*]

**Both:** CAT LITTER!!! [*They retch and heave as if they are going to be sick*]

**Steve:** I’m so sorry, man.

**Jim:** Did you make this before you had your first cup this morning?

**Steve:** Of course.

**Jim:** Then it’s not your fault. But can you help me get to the bathroom? I think I’m going to be sick…

**Steve:** Sure thing.

**Jim:** [*as they exit*] You know, this never would have happened if this place had its own coffee shop…I’m just saying….

[*They exit.*]

***The Living Temple***

**Worship Series Sermon – Week 2**

***The Lord Provides***

**Text:** Exodus 32:1-6 (all scripture references NIV unless otherwise stated)

Have you ever assembled a piece of furniture from a kit? I bought a computer desk when we moved into a new house. It came in long, flat boxes that took two people to carry.

When I opened it, I found about 20 pieces of wood and a couple of bags of nuts, bolts, nails and screws. Then I found the instruction book. Now most of the time, I look at that instruction book as more of a suggestion book. After all, I’m a smart guy, and this project can’t be so hard that I need instructions every step of the way, can it?

So I put the book aside, referring to it now and then. I looked at it at points in the process when it seemed important to do so.

Then I got to the point where the keyboard drawer needed to be installed. You know – that pull-out tray that you can use to hide the keyboard when you aren’t using it.

I looked at the drawer parts and then I looked at the desk where the drawer was supposed to go. I didn’t see a place that made sense for this drawer. For a moment I thought about abandoning the keyboard drawer altogether, but that’s kind of an important part of a computer desk, isn’t it?

It was a moment of desperation, so I reached for the instruction book. I rifled through it, finally finding the page with the keyboard drawer instructions. The drawing showed holes and slots that weren’t on the desk. I mean they just weren’t there.

Just then, my wife asked me for a status update, and I started getting nervous. “Just a few more minutes,” I promised, wiped some sweat from my forehead and looked at this project. It was a fun project that had suddenly turned into a nightmare.

I turned from instruction book to drawer parts and then to the partially finished desk. No luck. I was even tempted to call the 1-800 help line. Then, I looked at the other side of the desk. There were the holes, but on the wrong side.

What I failed to realize is that I missed an important detail early in the process of assembling the desk parts, and put the desk together backwards. It didn’t matter until now, but at this point, there was nothing else to do but take it all apart and start over.

In today’s passage, we read a familiar story. Maybe you have seen it portrayed on TV or in a movie. It’s one of the all-time low points in Israel’s history. While God was giving instructions to Moses on how his people should live and worship, the people thought they could go without the instruction book. They took the resources that God provided them and made a golden calf.

By this time, they had already received God’s Ten Commandments, including his warning, “You shall not make for yourself an idol.” (Exodus 20:4) But they got impatient waiting for Moses to return and forged ahead. And they made a golden calf and gave it the credit for bringing them out of Egypt. Then they bowed to it and sacrificed to it (Exodus 32:8).

Now, the Lord was upset and resolved that it was time to destroy them and start all over again with Moses. (Exodus 32:10)

Let’s take a minute and look at the gold they used to make this calf. Where did it come from? Was it theirs to use as they wish? Turn with me to Exodus 12:35-36. Here we see where they got this gold.

The Israelites did as Moses instructed and asked the Egyptians for articles of silver and gold and for clothing. The LORD had made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the people, and they gave them what they asked for; so they plundered the Egyptians. (Exodus 12:35-36)

God allowed his people to leave slavery and oppression in Egypt. But he didn’t let them leave empty-handed. Now they didn’t need gold or silver in the wilderness – not for shopping or trading. God was going to provide bread, meat and water to sustain them. The Bible even says their clothes and shoes didn’t wear out over the 40 years of wandering (Deuteronomy 29:5)

But God had a reason for providing those resources to them. The story picks up from last week. Do you remember? God told Moses to take up an offering, and that those with willing hearts should give, and that he wanted them to build a sanctuary, a place for him to dwell with his people. And the items God asked them to contribute to this sanctuary, this place of worship, were things he already provided for them.

And they were using them for the wrong reason. They used God’s gold to make a golden calf.

Have you ever messed up in a big way in your life? Maybe it was because of an oversight – there was a detail that you didn’t know about, but it changed everything. Maybe you messed up from charging in before the time was right. Or maybe you just took matters into your own hands and blatantly did what you knew was wrong and would hurt others and your relationship with God.

God provided resources for you. Yes, he makes provision for us to live, but he also gives us enough to contribute to his work in the world. In short, he makes provision so that we can give. He gives us good things so that we can make a positive difference in the world. And he gives so that we can build his temple. And that’s all so that he can dwell among us. He wants to be a part of our lives, and he wants us to play a part in making that happen.

Here are some things to remember:

First, God provides everything we have. As God provided for the Israelites as they were driven out of Egypt, he also provides for us today. Part of his provision in the wilderness was for basic needs, like food and water. But he provides more than that, doesn’t he?

He gives us enough so that, with a willing heart, we can contribute to the building of his house.

Second, God provides for a purpose. God’s generosity isn’t just for our comfort. It’s also so that we can make a difference in the world. It may be some material possession. There are families who are so grateful for the homes God provided them that they make it available for Bible studies or for college students needing a place to stat.

It may be a talent that God has given you. What eternal purpose could that have? There are great artists and composers who have dedicated their gifts to God and his kingdom. And thousands of people are moved because of a talent that was given back to God.

It could be some time that you have on your hands. How will you use that? How will you invest your extra hours in order to build God’s kingdom? There are people who are homebound who use their extra time to pray for others.

What have you received that God is calling you to give back to him?

Third, we have a choice about how we use the things God has given us. Each resource we receive can be used for ourselves. But it can also be used for God and his kingdom. This is a staggering idea – the thought that we have a choice in how God’s resources are used. That’s what stewardship is all about. It’s about our decisions. It’s about how we choose to use what we’ve received.

Maybe you’ve received a spiritual kit. And as you put it together, you discover that it’s all wrong, and you need to start over again. Just like a computer desk that doesn’t work, your life seems all backwards.

God is here, and he can help you to start over again.

Are you using God’s gold to build a golden calf? God provided through us to build his temple, and we hold onto it for ourselves.

What would happen if we loosened our grip on what we have and put it to God’s purpose in the world? What would happen if we chose to give back to God? How would your life change? How would your family change? How would your relationships change? How would our corps change?

God is here, and he can give you a second chance. What choice will you make?