

Dig-A-Little-Deeper

Amazing RACE

Sacrificing gods to worship God?

- Monday** Reading through the *One Year Bible* has taken us into Exodus where we find foundational truths for building a society 5000 years ago. Do they apply in 2008? Look at Exodus 32 where a people give up on their leader who has spent over a month away from them talking to God. They get restless and begin using their own logic to govern their lives, which leads to a godless existence. Note how following one's heart without godly principle leads to poor decision making. We must use our heads to make decisions and our hearts to love others, not the other way around. Give your decisions to God today.
- Tuesday** Exodus 34 reveals how Moses and God started over after the golden calf fiasco. God spends the entire chapter talking about His jealous love for the people and how they must worship Him by offering the best and first of their income. Is God narcissistic or did He simply want what was best for His people? To seek out man-made gods and solutions results in the self-indulgent, abusive habits and lifestyles of "golden calf" worshipping. What gods in your life keep you from fully trusting God? Authentically talk to Him about those things.
- Wednesday** What is the result in our life when we start depending on man-made idols or gods rather than the one true God? Exodus 35 reveals a 5000 BC answer that still holds true in 2008! God forgave His people, filled their hearts with His Spirit, and they became generous in their worship of Him (offering freely their time, talents and treasures). Are you stingy with your time, talent, and treasure, finding that you do not want to minister when the opportunity presents itself or to give of your money when a need arises? Talk to God about this.
- Thursday** When we think of ministry, we often think of teaching Sunday School, preaching or singing. Exodus 36 reveals God's idea of ministry. He filled some skilled craftsmen and artists with His Holy Spirit and they created a beautiful church for Israel to worship God in. Note how He did not hold back, but encouraged them to create the best, the most beautiful. God does not like second best in anything and He loves to use our talents to the fullest. Are you allowing God to have a portion of your talent and are you giving Him your best most beautiful effort? He wants to amaze you and use you to amaze others by the beauty you can create. Worship Him with your skill today!
- Friday** In Exodus 40, the craftsmen finish the Tabernacle and the people worship God. Notice how many times these repentant people do "just as the LORD commanded" them. Not half but full obedience through which He blessed them with His presence consistently. Full obedience does not mean perfection, but that one's heart is bent in the direction of a God-dependent life. Bend your heart to Him today - not to be perfect but to pursue Him through your day!

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