

"UP, MAKE US GODS"**Introduction**

1. Moses up Mt. Sinai to receive the Law
2. The people below impatient
3. The people utter this horrid cry

1. "PEOPLE POWER" CAN BE A DISASTER

- 1) Moses, the godly leader, was out of sight. Now "the people" gather to crave an idol!
- 2) This was outrageous – they had just been given God's holy law (Ex. 20) amid fearful signs.
- 3) The fact that "the people" demanded did not make it right. Democracy has its limits!
- 4) This raises the question, "Why an idol?"
ANS: Man wishes to have a God he can control.
- 5) The natural man is happy with religion if:
 - (i) the god is not almighty and threatening;
 - (ii) there is not a demand for holiness
- 6) So, they were glad to make a god of gold!
 - (i) But to save conscience: v.4
 - (ii) A form of worship of man's devising: v.5, 6
 - (iii) One that pleased human corruption: v.6, 25**APPLICATION**: This is a lesson: Man's religion is worthless.

2. LEADERSHIP AMONG GOD'S PEOPLE MUST BE WISE

- 1) Moses and Aaron were brothers + godly men: but how different their leadership" One was breaking the law while the other was

receiving it! (See v.21 – 24)

- 2) **OBSERVE**: Leadership means keeping to God's law.
- 3) **DOCTRINE**: God's word comes before all else in matters of worship. This is where they went wrong.
- 4) We have an insight into Moses' spirit: See v. 7-14. Moses not self-interested.
OBSERVE: God was testing his character + motives.
- 5) There had to be judgement + discipline:
 - (i) the sin was proved – essential
 - (ii) the honour of God required it
 - (iii) the stroke:
 - v.26:
 - v.28: 3000 men
 - v.20: drank the bitter draught**OBSERVE**: It is hard to be a good leader (too soft / too hard / for too long...)
APPLICATION: The ideal is for God's people to be their own disciplinarians: "let every man examine himself"

3. TO BE LIKE CHRIST WE MUST BOTH HATE SIN AND YET LOVE SINNERS

- 1) We approve of the spirit of Moses in this episode: v.29.
OBSERVE: This was necessary but painful.
- 2) In the ministry of Christ we see 2 aspects, judgement + mercy:
 - (i) Judgement: cleansing the temple
 - (ii) Mercy: he wept over Jerusalem and went to the Cross for us
- 3) This is seen here in the final interview here of God with Moses: v.30-33: "Blot me...out of thy book".
OBSERVE: What love!
APPLICATION: O let us have this love of Christ always in our attitude.

CONCLUSION

It is a memorable passage. The great lesson is: Keep always to God's word.

PSALM

79: 9 – 13

78: 34 – 38

81: 13 -16