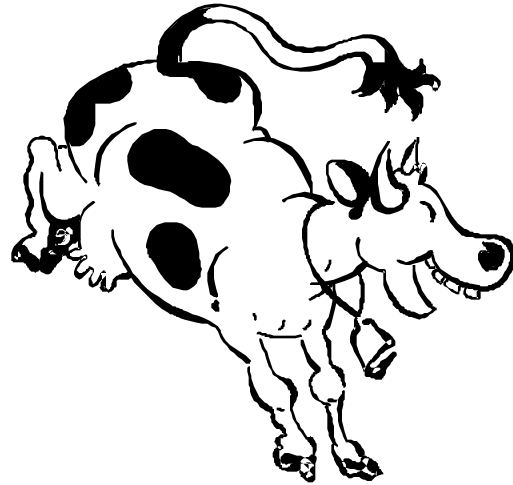


NOT THAT STUFF AGAIN!

Exodus 32

There is a T.V. program that has gained some amount of popularity called "Fear Factor". In this show contestants perform all sorts of "death-defying" acts. Those who succeed can win some prize money. When most people think of this program, one thing usually comes to mind: contestants are also asked to eat some of the most disgusting things imaginable. Most of them can't even be mentioned here.



Although many of those foods are disgusting to us, they may not be to people who live elsewhere. For instance you may not appreciate chicken leg soup, but there are those who rather enjoy it. The same goes for fish eyes. Even though you may not see clear to eat them, folks in other regions might actually enjoy sucking on those little round things.

There are many parts of animals that can be used for food. Consider the cow. We use many parts of the cow. First there's the milk. Cow milk is used for milk, cream, buttermilk, butter, sour milk, evaporated milk, dry milk, condensed milk, cheese, sour crème, and yogurt. Milk can be udderly helpful.

We also enjoy the meat that comes from a cow, such as steaks, roasts, ribs and loins. We even grind it up to make ground beef. Then there are the "variety meats". Here most Americans often lose interest. People can indeed eat cow tongue, calf brains, tripe (stomach lining), liver, sweet breads (thyroid glands), kidney, heart, and even the knuckle-bones and neck bones make a flavorful soup.

Thanks to the cow we can satisfy all sorts of different diets. What a marvelous animal!

Believe it or not, the people in our story today are also going to eat cow, but not quite as you might think. This delicacy is not something anyone would want to eat.

(By the way, do you know what goes oo-oo-oo-oo? A cow with no lips! Sorry!)

FOOD FACTS

Did you know the following:

FOOD FACTS

- Pound for pound hamburgers cost more than new cars.*
- 44% of Americans go on a diet each year.*
- On average, Americans eat 18 acres of pizza every day.*
- Honey is the only food that does not spoil.*
- 85% of us will eat Spam this year.*
- 69% of us eat the cake before the frosting.*
- Coffee and celery both flopped as Jell-O flavors.*
- A third of all ice cream sold is vanilla.*

*Two-thirds of the world's eggplants are grown in New Jersey.
One-third of the potatoes sold are French fried.
The average ear of corn has 800 kernels arranged in 16 rows.
It takes more calories eating celery than the celery has to begin with.
Eating gold may sound like fun, but it really isn't that great!*

And eating gold is just what we will talk about today. Let's get the details.

THE GOLDEN CALF

A short time after the Israelites left Egypt they camped at the foot of Mt. Sinai. (Find this area on your Bible map.) Exodus 19 records this camp. However our story at Mt. Sinai takes place in Exodus 32. What happened during those 13 chapters in between? Open your Bibles for the answer.

Now get ready to study Exodus 32.

1. (v. 1) How long was Moses up on the mountain? See Exodus 24:18 for the answer. What were the people wondering? Whom did they seek out for help? Why him? How can you tell the people were getting angry with Moses? Why should they have realized that Moses would return?
2. (v. 2) Where did they get golden earrings? Weren't they poor people? Read Exodus 12:33-36.
3. (v. 3,4) What did Aaron have planned? Why a calf? The Egyptians had a god called Apis. It was a calf-like god. No doubt some of the Israelites had also worshiped this calf god while in Egypt. Do you think they gave up worshiping this god? See what Joshua wrote forty years later when they were about to enter the Promised Land. Read Joshua 24:14.
4. (v. 5) Aaron and the people figured they could worship the true God as well as the Egyptian gods at the same time. How is this made clear? Do you think Aaron knew that what he was doing was wrong? When would be the celebration?
5. (v. 6) When did the people get up? Why is it significant that they arose early to begin their party? Does anything come to mind about how difficult it is for some to rise early and go to church to worship the true God?
6. (v. 7,8) What did the Lord see? Could the people hide their sins from God? Can we? Read Psalm 33:14. What did the Lord mean when he said, "They have been quick to turn away from me?"
7. (v. 9,10) What was the Lord's plan with the Children of Israel? Why would only Moses be a part of the new great nation? What did God do that makes us surmise that God might have wanted Moses to question his plans?
8. (v. 11-14) List the points that Moses makes in his request to the Lord. Does the fact that the Lord "repented" or "relented" mean that the Lord figured he had made a mistake?
9. (v. 15-18) Who met Moses as he was coming down from the mountain? What did Moses have with him? Whose writing was on the front and back of the tablets? Joshua told Moses it sounded like a war in camp. What was Moses' reply? What's wrong with singing?
10. (v. 19,20) What two things caught Moses' eyes when he looked into the Israelite camp? What type of dancing do you suppose was going on? What did he do with the tablets of stone? These tablets had Ten Commandments written on them. Which commandment had the people broken? What did Moses do with the calf? In other words what were the Israelites forced to do with their god? What does that say about the significance of all idols?
11. (v. 21-24) What was Aaron's excuse?
12. (v. 25,26) Moses saw that things were completely out of control. He had to establish order once again. Aaron had completely botched things up, and the people were drunk with fun. What clear command did Moses make to the people?
13. (v. 27-29) What was done to all those who did not repent of their sin and follow the Lord? How many did the Levites kill that day?
14. (v. 30) After he cooled down a bit, what did Moses tell the people he would try to do?
15. (v. 31-35) What was Moses' plea before God? Moses asked to be blotted out of God's book if he would not forgive. Did God do as Moses wished? Instead, who was blotted out? How did God promise to once again lead the Children of Israel? Why can we say "God kept this incident tucked in his back pocket"? We read in Numbers 14 that the people once again rebelled. What

was God's response? Read Numbers 14:26-35. Although very little explanation is given at the end of the chapter, what did the Lord further strike them with? Note: In case you are concerned about what happened to the two tablets, read Exodus 34:1.

TIME FOR A BREAK

During the break, have each student write on a piece of paper their definition of the word JEALOUSY. (Don't allow anyone to peek at a dictionary.) Compare answers.

A JEALOUS GOD

Compare definitions after the break time. God says he is a jealous God.

1. Does he have a right to be? Why? Read Isaiah 44:6-23 as a group. How does this remind you of the story of the Golden Calf?
2. What did God make clear in Exodus 20:4-6?
3. What is another name for God? Read Exodus 34:14.
4. What type of anger does God sometimes show? Read 1 Kings 14:22.
5. What should we not try to arouse? See 1 Corinthians 10:22.

NO CALVES TODAY!

There's no way we can make a golden calf. First, we don't have the gold. Second, we don't have the time or place. Third, we don't have a leader like Aaron. And fourth, we're not waiting for anyone to come down from a mountain. But can we build our own golden calves? Once again divide the class into small groups. Have them discuss this question and report back in five minutes: WHAT ARE OUR GOLDEN CALVES TODAY? Discuss.

BUT GOD IS A FORGIVING GOD

Can we leave this class in the middle of discussing our sinful moments? Let's end with a strong statement showing another side of our God. Read Acts 13:38.