

Sermon Summary
17th after Pentecost
9th October 2011

- There is an irony to Exodus 32. As Moses receives the commandment to make no graven images, the Israelites do exactly that at the foot of the mountain.
- The Golden calf is a classic idol.
- Idolatry is the giving to a creature honour and due that really belongs to God.
- There is a fundamental human impulse to look for role models or exemplars.
- There is a fundamental impulse to find people or things to honour.
- There is a fundamental human impulse to turn those people and things into authority figures for how we live.
- There is a fundamental human impulse to overdo this and turn these into idols.
- In some places, there are still those classic, to our view, idols: False gods.
- In others, there is a move to fund this is the supernatural: in psychics , Tarot, astrology and the like.
- Some have tried to do it through political ideology, or leader cults
- Others through sporting heroes (and what an outcry when the don't live up to the hope invested in them)
- Some use money, drink, drugs, sex, gambling.
- For some it is youth. But there is no pointing in papering the walls if there are termites in the foundations.
- Exodus and the OT constantly put a question before the faithful: to choose God, or something else.
- Our answer must always be the answer of Joshua: As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.
- And that means we will make a constant, intentional choice to live under his authority. Less some creature (person, substance or ideology) sneaks in and fills the gap that our fundamental impulses need filled.
- If we make this a choice which we focus on each day, it will I become more and more a part of our behaviour and easier to do. The life lived thus is one which embodies "prayer without ceasing".

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