Discovering Exodus: Finding prayer points, testimonies, reflection and journaling questions that will engage your heart with the Father.

Chapter 32: Intercession of Moses

**□ The Invitation**: Invite the Holy Spirit to show you something new as you read through the chapter. The Father desires to meet with you and share something with you today. You may find it in the reading or you may hear His Voice speaking to Your Spirit in the quiet of this moment.

**□ The Reading:** Read Exodus Chapter 32. Record any thoughts from the chapter, questions you have or verses that the Holy Spirit highlighted to you while reading.

**□ The Focus**: Today’s focus is a journaling question. Write your thoughts as you meet with the Father.

Chapter 32 opens with the nation of Israel waiting for Moses to return from the mountain top. He had been on the mountain with God for 40 days. Verse 1 says that “...*the people saw that Moses was* ***so long*** *in coming down from the mountain.*..” The nation of Israel grew impatient. And they turned their attention to Aaron and demanded him to “...*make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don’t’ know what has happened to him*”. Aaron complies with their demands and casts an idol in the shape of a calf and planned a festival to the Lord. “*Tomorrow there will be a festival to the Lord. So the next day the people rose early and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings. Afterward they sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry*,” verses 5 & 6 tell us. Every time I read this I think, “What? How can they so easily forget?”

God was aware of everything happening in the Israelites’ camp. He told Moses, “*They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. They have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have said, ‘These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.’ ‘I have seen these people’, the Lord said to Moses, ‘and they are a stiff-necked people. Now* ***leave Me alone*** *so that My anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you a great nation*,” verses 8-10. What a remarkable statement for God to make to Moses. It seems to imply that God can only go through with destruction of the Israelites if Moses does NOT intervene! This interchange in Exodus 32 shows how essential relationships are to God.

Moses interceded for the nation of Israel in verses 11-12. “*Lord, why should Your anger burn against Your people, whom You brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wife them off the face of the earth’? Turn from Your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on Your people. Remember Your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel*.....” Moses carries God’s heart for the people of God. Because of his friendship with God, Moses could boldly confront God with these words. He tells God: 1) The Israelites are Your own people. God chose them to be a holy nation, a kingdom of priests, God’s treasured possession. 2) What about Your reputation among other nations? And 3) What about You promises. God promised “*I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and I will give your descendants all this land I promised them and it will be their inheritance forever*,” verse 13. Moses had spent time with God and He knew God’s heart for the people of Israel. Moses stands as a bridge between God and the nation of Israel. He is the mediator between God and man, like a bridge, who connects the two parties. Intercession is the bridge between heaven and earth.

God relents because Moses persisted. Moses would NOT leave God alone! God is relational. He is looking for friends who will intercede. Beloved, we are the only ones who have access to God in all the earth. When you pray, be encouraged to act like Moses, not to “leave Me alone”.

**Journaling Question**:

How have you viewed intercession? What does this passage reveal to you about it? Any changes to be made?