

Disclaimer:

During the course of this series, no real violence against cows is intended or encouraged. No actual cows have been or will be harmed in the process.

Furthermore, we mean no lack of respect to our dear friends of Hindu faith.

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Exodus 32:1-4

An IDOL is anything...

- that's more important to you than God
- that absorbs your heart & imagination above God
- that you expect to give you what only God can give
- to which you devote your greatest attention, passion, & resources
- to which your soul says: "If can have THAT, THEN I'll feel like my life has value, meaning, significance"

IDOLS are often good things that have
been made into ultimate things.

"In any culture in which God is largely absent,
sex, money, and politics will fill the vacuum."

- Tim Keller, *Counterfeit Gods*

pol-i-tics

1 a: the art or science of government

b: the art or science concerned with guiding or influencing policy

c: the art of science concerned with winning and holding control over a government

Genesis 1:26-31

Genesis 2:15-17

Genesis 3:1-7

What's the sin?

Leveraging my free will to choose what I want

95% of what sets the course of our lives
is out of our control

Mark 10: 35-45

When what I do, how I serve, a position I have
or want gets threatened...
what's my genuine feeling in response?

When an IDOL gets threatened or challenged...
the response is usually either ANGER or FEAR

Is there something here I must save at all costs?

Matthew 26:50-52

How do you displace the IDOL?

1. Admit that it's there.

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2. Admit your powerlessness.

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2. Admit your powerlessness.

3. Adapt the way of Jesus.

"Jesus' example and grace heals our will to power. The normal response to our sense of powerlessness is to deny it, to find people to dominate and control in order to live in that denial.

But Jesus shows us another way. By giving up his power and serving, he became the most influential man who ever lived."

It's not the way of the sword... it's the way of surrender.

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It's not service of self... it's service to others.

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It's not service of self... it's service to others.

It's not stepping UP to be served... it's stepping DOWN
to become a servant.

"Jesus is not only example, however. He is a Savior. Only by admitting our sin, need, and powerlessness, and by casting ourselves on his mercy will we finally become secure in his love, and therefore empowered in a way that does not lead us to oppress others.

The insecurity is gone, the lust for power is cut at the root."