

## Suffering

### Part 3

#### Comparison Between Moses Fasting and Aaron Feasting Attitude

On the account of the golden Calf that Aaron made to the Israelites we can observe the difference between the attitude of Moses and Aaron. Moses was willing to suffer for God while Aaron was tempted to stay at the comfort zone. But finally Aaron repented and he joined Moses and was willing to face the people and suffer for God.

In order to have good comparison and see things clearly let us read the following Scriptures:

*“7 Remember this and never forget how you provoked the LORD your God to anger in the desert. From the day you left Egypt until you arrived here, you have been rebellious against the LORD. 8 At Horeb you aroused the LORD's wrath so that he was angry enough to destroy you. 9 When I went up on the mountain to receive the tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant that the LORD had made with you, I stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights; I ate no bread and drank no water. 10 The LORD gave me two stone tablets inscribed by the finger of God. On them were all the commandments the LORD proclaimed to you on the mountain out of the fire, on the day of the assembly. 11 At the end of the forty days and forty nights, the LORD gave me the two stone tablets, the tablets of the covenant. 12 Then the LORD told me, "Go down from here at once, because your people whom you brought out of Egypt have become corrupt. They have turned away quickly from what I commanded them and have made a cast idol for themselves." 13 And the LORD said to me, "I have seen this people, and they are a stiff-necked people indeed! 14 Let me alone, so that I may destroy them and blot out their name from under heaven. And I will make you into a nation stronger and more numerous than they." 15 So I turned and went down from the mountain while it was ablaze with fire. And the two tablets of the covenant were in my hands. 16 When I looked, I saw that you had sinned against the LORD your God; you had made for yourselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. You had turned aside quickly from the way that the LORD had commanded you. 17 So I took the two tablets and threw them out of my hands, breaking them to pieces before your eyes. 18 Then once again I fell prostrate before the LORD for forty days and forty nights; I ate no bread and drank no water, because of all the sin you had committed, doing what was evil in the LORD's sight and so provoking him to anger. 19 I feared the anger and wrath of the LORD, for he was angry enough with you to destroy you. But again the LORD listened to me. 20 And the LORD was angry enough with Aaron to destroy him, but at that time I prayed for Aaron too. 21 Also I took that sinful thing of yours, the calf you had made, and burned it in the fire. Then I crushed it and ground it to powder as fine as dust and threw the dust into a stream that flowed down the mountain.” (Deuteronomy 9:7-21)*

*“1 When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, "Come, 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." 2 Aaron answered them, "Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me." 3 So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. 4 He took what they handed him and*

*made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt." 5 When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, "Tomorrow there will be a festival to the LORD." 6 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. 7 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt. 8 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, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt." 9 "I have seen these people," the LORD said to Moses, "and they are a stiff-necked people. 10 Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation." 11 But Moses sought the favor of the LORD his God. "O LORD," he said, "why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand? 12 Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on your people. 13 Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel, to whom you swore by your own self: '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.' " 14 Then the LORD relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened. 15 Moses turned and went down the mountain with the two tablets of the Testimony in his hands. They were inscribed on both sides, front and back. 16 The tablets were the work of God; the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets. 17 When Joshua heard the noise of the people shouting, he said to Moses, "There is the sound of war in the camp." 18 Moses replied: "It is not the sound of victory, it is not the sound of defeat; it is the sound of singing that I hear." 19 When Moses approached the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, his anger burned and he threw the tablets out of his hands, breaking them to pieces at the foot of the mountain. 20 And he took the calf they had made and burned it in the fire; then he ground it to powder, scattered it on the water and made the Israelites drink it. 21 He said to Aaron, "What did these people do to you, that you led them into such great sin?" 22 "Do not be angry, my lord," Aaron answered. "You know how prone these people are to evil. 23 They said to me, '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.' 24 So I told them, 'Whoever has any gold jewelry, take it off.' Then they gave me the gold, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf!" 25 Moses saw that the people were running wild and that Aaron had let them get out of control and so become a laughingstock to their enemies. 26 So he stood at the entrance to the camp and said, "Whoever is for the LORD, come to me." And all the Levites rallied to him. 27 Then he said to them, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Each man strap a sword to his side. Go back and forth through the camp from one end to the other, each killing his brother and friend and neighbor.' " 28 The Levites did as Moses commanded, and that day about three thousand of the people died. 29 Then Moses said, "You have been set apart to the LORD today, for you were against your own sons and brothers, and he has blessed you this day." 30 The next day Moses said to the people, "You have committed a great sin. But now I will go up to the LORD; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin." 31 So Moses went back to the LORD and said, "Oh, what a great sin these people have committed! They have made themselves gods of gold. 32 But now, please*

*forgive their sin--but if not, then blot me out of the book you have written." 33 The LORD replied to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against me I will blot out of my book. 34 Now go, lead the people to the place I spoke of, and my angel will go before you. However, when the time comes for me to punish, I will punish them for their sin." 35 And the LORD struck the people with a plague because of what they did with the calf Aaron had made." (Exodus 32:1-35)*

1- Moses calmed the Lord's anger and prayed and interceded so that the Lord would forgive the people, while Aaron ignited the Lord's anger. Many they provoke the anger of God by siding with the people.

2- Moses fasted twice forty days and received the word of God **"Two tablets of the Testimony."** Aaron preferred to feast with the people, therefore he received nothing. Many ministers they say we don't know what to teach and cannot receive the word of God because they are so much involved in eating and they are so sad and conservative when it comes to fasting. They are in famine of God's word.

3- Moses Edified the people by disciplining them with God's word and in His will, and finally turned the people back to God. While Aaron corrupted and spoiled the people as he sided with their sin.

4- Moses prayed and God listened to him. While Aaron offered many burnt and fellowship offerings but no communication was with God because he was doing evil.

5- Moses loved Aaron and fasted for him when he sinned to be restored. While Aaron betrayed Moses in siding with other people who disobeyed the word of God.

6- Moses focused on God and directed the people and instructed them of what to do. While Aaron was directed by people and they instructed him of what to do.

7- Moses protected the people resources and used them in the right direction to make what God ordained (Read **Exodus 35:4-29**). While Aaron, wasted the people resources and used them to do evil and harmful things.

8- Moses molded the people into the frame that God's word provided. He conformed to the pattern that God's word demanded. While Aaron twisted the word of God to suit the people wishes and desires. After he made the calf he said, **"Tomorrow there will be a festival to the LORD."** Many they are conformed to the pattern of the world and use the ministry to make parties, festival, singing programs, making jokes, dancing sessions, selling and buying, making business, immoralities and other kind of pagan revelry.

9- Moses authority was heavenly from God and he was directed by God of what to do. While Aaron authority was earthly from the ground and he was directed by the people.

10- Moses style of ministry and service is fasting, suffering and struggling to do God's will. While Aaron Ministry is feasting and enjoying activities like picnic, journey, sport fest, etc.

11- Moses was God's pleaser. Aaron was people's pleaser.

12- Moses attracted faithful people; Joshua was with him. While around Aaron were corrupted people.

13- Moses said the truth. While Aaron when was confronted told lies when he said about the calf he had made, **"and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf."** He did not say that he **"fashioning it with a tool."**

14- Moses led the people into the truth leading them toward the Promised Land. Aaron led the people into idol worship.

15- Moses did what is right and needed to stand firm with God. If you are disciplining the people you do not need to bow down to them, apologizing from them and asking them

forgiveness, but continue in your stand. While people like Aaron who know the word of God but compromised with the people they need to repent to get saved.

16- Moses was willing to suffer in facing the people. He faced the people and destroyed their celebration. Aaron avoided suffering by avoiding facing the people with their sins, but he joined them in their sin and celebration.


17- Moses knew the consequences and the destructive effects of sin on the people. He burned the calf idol, ground it to power, scattered it on the water and made the people drink it. Moses type of leader explains and expound well to the people the bad effects of their sins. Aaron was not able to see the destructive effects of sins on people's lives. Such kind of leaders as Aaron is weak and not much discerning, and needed to be under Moses kind of leaders' supervision.

18- Moses suffered in taking a bold decision when he announced, **"Whoever is for the LORD, come to me."** He was willing to lose some of the people to save the rest and to lay down a true foundation. Moses used the Word of God that is sharper than the double edged sword to cut the ties of sin, blood, flesh, culture and tradition. While Aaron uses food, parties and celebration to attract people favour and approval.

19- Moses Had true love and fruitful ministry and was able to bring the people back to God and to raise up a body of committed worker, the Levites and the rest of the people, who accepted God's word and discipline. Moses trained them to serve God and do His work. Aaron did well finally when he repented and was willing to join Moses, adopted his method and responded to God's call.

**My Dear and Beloved:** Reflect on the message and allow The Holy Spirit to examine you. In leading your family, in doing your ministry, are you like Moses grounded with the truth and desire to please God or like Aaron delight to compromise and people pleaser. If you are like Moses then continues to stand firm, God is with you and He will raise up people like Joshua to stand with you. But if you are like Aaron then you need to repent and stand with people like Moses who can help you to come back to God and lead you to serve Him and lead others in the right way and direction as you agree to pray.

**My Prayer:** *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the Cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your blessed word of yours to me. Lord I repent from the following sins \_\_\_\_\_ . Lord give me boldness and strength and perseverance to stand firm and be willing to suffer for you in order to bring others into your kingdom, this is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*

Jesus christ  
  
The Bread Of Life

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