



August 9, 2009

Reality Check

It seems as though every week we hear about people doing things and we just have to sit back and wonder what they were thinking. How can some people not know that what they are doing will cause them or their loved ones grief, or cause harm to others? The reality is that as humans we all have weaknesses that we need to be cautious about. In the face of dealing with ourselves there are some realities that should be at the forefront of our minds. The same is true in the Bible. We can read about those who should have known better but in a moment of weakness or under pressure we may act in ways that probably even surprise ourselves. Aaron, the brother of Moses, is a good example of this. He had seen the plagues that were done by the power of God to lead the people out of Egypt. He had accompanied Moses initially into the mountain and then been left in a position of leadership when Moses went on up into the mountain to receive the laws from God. He knew these things and had seen the power and judgment of God, and yet, he allowed pressure and weakness to overrule his better judgment. Aaron, like many today who are confronted with their indiscretions, had an excuse as well. When questioned by Moses concerning this he stated, *“For they said unto me, Make us gods, which shall go before us: for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him. And I said unto them, Whosoever hath any gold, let them break it off. So they gave it me: then I cast it into the fire, and there came out this calf.”* (Ex 32.23-24). How many people would accept an explanation like that concerning the appearance of the calf. Aaron did not fully admit to the creation of the idol, but affirmed his role in it’s making. He however did not take full responsibility for the calf, stating that it just appeared. One of the problems that many people have is that when they are confronted with their actions, or questioned about them, they have a ready defense for what they have done. One of those is that they were not seen or heard by the one who questions them. Another excuse is that they were

acting under the directions or were carrying out the wishes of another and therefore were not responsible for the result. That is not a defense. Aaron had done a great wrong in the sight of God and had allowed the children of Israel to slip into evil. What would have happened if he had been strong and refused. Would God have preserved him and watched over him. It is apparent that God knew what was going on and told Moses that he needed to return the camp (Ex 32.8). People get the idea that since there is no immediate punishment for their actions then they are not doing anything wrong. This becomes a justification for doing whatever one pleases. As Christians however we realize that this is not the case and we must guard our actions at all times. Christ indicated that all is under the watchful eye of God when he told those who questioned him, *“But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.”* (Matt 12.36). Jeremiah records the attitude of scoffers who challenged his messages issued by God. *“Behold, they say unto me, Where is the word of the LORD? let it come now.”* (Jer 17.15). Peter also writes about a similar attitude when he states, *“Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.”* (2 Pet 3.3-4). Aaron sinned in spite of seeing the wonders of God. Today folks may think that ignorance of God’s commands will be a defense, or, it is all right to sidestep responsibility for one’s actions. As Paul stated, *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”* (2 Cor 5.10). Reality is that we need to be aware of all things that we do at all times and know what is right.

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