A Golden Calf?

Scripture Verse – "But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-ending stream!" Amos 5:24

Our verse is a command to live right. To honor God and work on correcting our hearts' posture rather than the outward appearance of our Christianity. God doesn't want us to come before him offering anything if we haven't first offered up our hearts. In Amos chapter 5, we see two separate times that God says, "seek me and live" (Amos 5:4 & 6). Does this seem like a rather harsh statement to you? If you're not alone, the Israelites likely felt the same way. In fact, Amos was named the "prophet of doom" because he boldly spoke of God's judgement on Israel. He attempted to shine a light on sin and provide the healing path to repentance.

Often we like to think of God as loving, compassionate, forgiving, and merciful, which He is, but what about the God who judges and brings justice? What about the God who is jealous for us and commands us to serve no other gods? As we read through the Old Testament, there are many accounts of God's justice being poured out on those who refuse to repent and turn away from their wicked ways. The Israelites crafted homemade idols with their own hands. They even created ceremonies of worship to those idols, which scripture says infuriated God, causing Him to act justly.

You might not set a handcrafted golden calf on the altar, but what have you placed on the altar of your heart? What captures your attention on a daily basis? What steals you away from your first love? Take a mental inventory of your thoughts and then refocus them on God. Allow Him to not only recapture your thoughts but your heart.

Lord, search me and find anything in me that takes time away from you. Help me remove the false gods and manmade idols in my life. Help me replace those things with more time in your word and your presence. Father, you are always just, and one day you will make all things right but until then, let me be found right with you. In Jesus' name.

**BIO** – Michelle wears an array of hats on any given day, but her favorite is Daughter of the King. She lives in the beautiful mountains of North Carolina, where she works as a Child and Family Therapist. She has been a single mother for 18 years and loves to watch God take your most difficult struggles and transform them into passionate purpose. Today Michelle has joyfully embraced her passion for speaking truth into the lives of others and assisting them in finding and living out their true identity in Christ. She believes that we need to uncover the lies and labels, identity the root, and replace it with God's truth.