

THE TORAH OF LEADERSHIP

When Sorry Is Not Enough | Erica Brown | March 10, 2022



Nicolas Poussin, "The Adoration of the Golden Calf" (1633-34), National Gallery, London

Exodus 32:30-34

וַיְהִי מִמָּחֳרַת וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֶל־הָעָם אַתֶּם חָטֵאתֶם חַטָּאתַם גְּדוֹלָה וְעַתָּה אֶעֱלֶה אֶל־יְהוָה אוּלַי אֶכַּפֵּר בְּעַד חַטֹּאתֵיכֶם:

וַיֵּשֶׁב מֹשֶׁה אֶל־יְהוָה וַיֹּאמֶר אֲנִי חָטָא הָעָם הַזֶּה חַטָּאתָה גְּדוֹלָה וַיַּעֲשׂוּ לָהֶם אֱלֹהֵי זָהָב:

וְעַתָּה אִם־תִּשָּׂא חַטֹּאתֵם וְאִם־אֵין מִתְּנִי נָא מִסְפָּרָה אֲשֶׁר כָּתוּבָה:

וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה מִי אֲשֶׁר חָטָא־לִי אֶמְחִנּוּ מִסְפָּרָי:

וְעַתָּה לֵךְ | נַחֵה אֶת־הָעָם אֶל אֲשֶׁר־דִּבַּרְתִּי לָךְ הַגֵּה מִלְּאֲכֵי יַדְךָ לִפְנֵיהֶם וּבְיוֹם פְּקוּדֵי וּפְקוּדֵי עֲלֵהֶם חַטֹּאתֵם:

The next day Moses said to the people, "You have been guilty of a great sin. Yet I will now go up to God; perhaps I may win forgiveness for your sin." Moses went back to God and said, "Alas, this people is guilty of a great sin in making for themselves a god of gold. Now, if You will forgive their sin [well and good]; but if not, erase me from the

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record which You have written!" But God said to Moses, "Only one who has sinned against Me will I erase from My record. Go now, lead the people where I told you. See, My messenger shall go before you. But when I make an accounting, I will bring them to account for their sins."

Reflective Question

When has someone else's sorry not been enough for you to change a relationship?

Leadership Challenge

If you could erase one incident in your leadership, what would it be and why?