



# If I Stand

By Rich Mullins

There's more that rises in the morning than  
the sun and more that shines in the night than  
just the moon. It's more than just this fire here  
that keeps me warm in a shelter that is larger  
than this room.

And there's a loyalty that's deeper than mere sentiments  
And a music higher than the songs that I can sing  
The stuff of Earth competes for the allegiance  
I owe only to the Giver of all good things

So if I stand let me stand on the promise that you will pull me through  
And if I can't, let me fall on the grace that first brought me to You  
And if I sing let me sing for the joy that has born in me these songs  
And if I weep let it be as a man who is longing for his home

There's more that dances on the prairies than the wind  
More that pulses in the ocean than the tide  
There's a love that is fiercer than the love between friends  
More gentle than a mother's when her baby's at her side

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And a music higher than the songs that I can sing  
The stuff of Earth competes for the allegiance  
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# 3:16

THE NUMBERS OF HOPE

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## THE MOST FAMOUS CONVERSATION IN THE BIBLE

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever  
believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life"*  
(John 3:16).

**TODAY:** *"For God so loved the world..."*

## *Scripture Focus: Exodus 32:1–35*

***Lesson Objective:*** To recognize that no one in this world deserves God's love but that's exactly what he offers freely and undeserved through his Son.

## REWIND

### Exodus 32:1-35 - Israel's "incredible" sin

*The Context:* Three months earlier, the Israelites were slaves to the Egyptian pharaoh. Then, God intervened and, through a series of plagues, pharaoh released the captive nation allowing them to seek out the land that had been promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—the Promised Land. Their joyful escape from Egypt was short-lived as pharaoh changed his mind and pursued the Israelites to the shore of the Red Sea. Miraculously, the Red Sea opened and the Israelites crossed on dry land before witnessing pharaoh and his army being swallowed up by the angry waters. After a brief celebration, the people journeyed southeast toward Mount Sinai where they set up camp. Moses went up and came down from the mountain, reading all the words and laws God gave to his people (Ex.24:3). They agreed to everything he said and then Moses went up again for 40 days and nights to receive more instruction about Israel's worship.

**(vv.1-6)** When was the last time you were tempted to worship a statue or image of some kind? A god made out of stone? or wood? or gold? How does Aaron try to paper over their sin?

**(vv.7-14)** God's anger flares. Why doesn't he destroy them all at once? What does Moses do in these verses that serves as a picture of Christ?

**(vv.15-29)** Something frightening still happens in the camp. 3,000 who were "running wild" (32:25) when Moses came down were slain by the sword. Could the number of slain been higher? Did anyone in the camp deserve to live?

**(vv.30-35)** Why was Moses' plea, though sincere, not accepted by God?

→ **Psalm 49:7,8** - No one can redeem the life of another or give to God a ransom for them—the ransom for a life is costly, no payment is ever enough.

## RETHINK

What does God tell us regarding our idolatrous ways?

→ **Ephesians 4:22-24** - You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

→ **1 John 1:10** - If we claim to have no sin, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

Sin-hoarding stiffens our hearts. Confession softens us. Acknowledge what you have done against God.

## REACT

**Exodus 32:13** - Why does God relent and choose instead to follow through with his plan of salvation through Israel?

God's love gives us a fresh start. How will we respond?

→ **Psalm 71:14-15** - As for me, I will always have hope; I will praise you more and more. My mouth will tell of your righteous deeds, of your saving acts all day long—though I know not how to relate them all.