

THE ROCK AT A HARD PLACE



Exodus 17:1-7, ESV – All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” And Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?” ³ But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?” ⁴ So Moses cried to the LORD, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” ⁵ And the LORD said to Moses, “Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶ Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.” And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

Notes:

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- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

SERMON-BASED STUDY

For the week of October 11, 2020

Exodus 17:1-7

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

- 1 This weekend we learned that hard places can make for bad choices. What were some of the bad choices the Israelites made in this passage? What are some bad choices you have made in the midst of "hard places"?
- 2 These events in Exodus 17 happen within God's midst (Remember, He is going before them by a pillar of fire by night and a cloud by day). Why do you think the Israelites still grumbled and became demanding and doubting of God's plan and power?
- 3 How can we avoid falling into the same trap of doubting God and becoming demanding of Him?

DIGGING DEEPER

A **James 4:1-6, ESV** – *What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? ² You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. ⁴ You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ⁵ Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"? ⁶ But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."*

- 4 Looking at the passage above, how does desire lead to sin? How does sin cause us to view our circumstances, ourselves, others, and God differently?

5 How are pride and humility related to our desires and our propensity toward sin?

B *1 Corinthians 10:6-12, ESV – ⁶ Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷ Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.” ⁸ We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹ We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, ¹⁰ nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. ¹¹ Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. ¹² Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.*

6 According to Paul, what lessons do we learn from the Israelites experience during the exodus?

7 What does Paul mean when he says, “We must not put Christ to the test”?

C *Philippians 4:11-13, 19, ESV – ¹¹ Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. ¹² I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. ¹³ I can do all things through him who strengthens me.*

¹⁹ And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

8 In the passage above, we see Paul speaking about how he is content in all circumstances. How does contentment keep us from sin?

9 For Paul, the real issue is the heart, not the circumstances. Why is a person’s heart so important? What can a person do to make their heart right?

TAKING IT HOME

In Exodus 17, we see how the Israelites allow their circumstances to take control of their heart and ultimately lead them to sin. In their sin, they look upon themselves, others, and God wrongly. We too, fall into this trap. In what areas of your life are you not seeing God, yourself, or others properly? What changes do you need to make to get into a “right heart” position? Share with your group or accountability partner what God has been showing you and pray for a right heart in all circumstances.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

Psalm 78, 95, 106
1 Corinthians 10:1-22