

Moses & Meribah

Exodus 17 & Numbers 20

- Two different events occur at the same place
- Might be confusing as to what happened when
- This lesson highlights the importance of hearing and applying what God has commanded

1. Strike to the Rock – Exodus 17:1-17

- Background: fresh out of Egypt (14) & God is now providing their food (16)
- 1 – no drinkable water
- 2 – people complained to Moses
- 3 – “Why have you brought us out of Egypt to kill us??”
- 4 – Moses to God: what shall I do?
- 5 – take the people to the rock and strike it with the rod (Aaron’s rod)
- 6 – God will make the water come out. Moses to do his part, God to do His.
- 7 – named: Massah [Temptation] & Meribah [Chiding/Strife]

2. Speak to the Rock – Numbers 20:1-13

- Background: in the middle of the 40 years of wilderness wanderings. God is still providing their food and guiding them.
- 1 – back in the desert of Sin/Zin; Miriam dies
- 2 – no drinkable water [again] and people ‘gang up’ on Moses & Aaron
- 3 – “We wish we would have died with our brethren!”
- 4 – “Why did you bring us and our cattle here to die?”
- 5 – “We can’t plant, harvest, drink here!”
- 6 – Moses and Aaron approach the Lord
- 8 – take the rod [Aaron’s] & SPEAK to the rock
- 9 – Moses starts to obey
- 10 – before the rock
- 11 – Moses smote the rock TWICE; water still came out – God provides

- 12 – God is not happy with Moses and Aaron; punishment: not enter the Promised Land
- 13 – now known as Meribah for the events here

3. God's Commandments

- When God commands something, He means it!
- Although Moses was commanded to strike the rock in Exodus, God's command had changed in Numbers
- His commands are not grievous, 1 John 5:3

Lessons Learned:

1. God's commandments are specific and must be obeyed!
2. God does not tolerate when people disobey/ignore His commandments.
3. God always provides for His people.

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P. O. Box 292, Woodbury TN 37190
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a PowerPoint accompanies this lesson online

also available: *Excuses of Moses; Ten Plagues; Passover & Crossing the Red Sea; from the Sea to the Song to Sinai; Ten Commandments' & Golden Calf*

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