

Exodus 17

The Smitten Rock and the Raised Staff

January 31, 2021 – Rev. Rick Lyon

Deuteronomy 8:3 - God humbled you, and in your hunger He gave you manna to eat... so that you might understand that man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.

#1 - You Need A Rock You Can Depend On

Exodus 17:1 - Then all the congregation of the children of Israel set out on their journey from the Wilderness of Sin, according to the commandment of the Lord, and camped in Rephidim; but there was no water for the people to drink.

v. 2-4 - Therefore the people contended with Moses, and said, “Give us water, that we may drink.” So Moses said to them, “Why do you contend with me? Why do you tempt the Lord?” ³ And the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses, and said, “Why is it you've brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?” ⁴ So Moses cried out to the Lord, saying, “What shall I do with this people? They're almost ready to stone me!”

1 Cor. 10:10 - Don't complain, as some of them did, and were killed by the destroying angel.

1. They Demanded God's Provision.

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Matthew 7:7 - "Ask, and you will receive; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."

2. They Denied God's Protection.

James 1:2-4, 12 - Count it all joy, my brothers, when you encounter trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be *mature and complete*, not lacking anything... Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

3. They Doubted God's Presence.

Psalms 106:9-14 - [The Lord] rebuked the Red Sea, and it dried up; He led them through the depths as through a desert. ¹⁰ He saved them from the hand of the foe; from the hand of the enemy He redeemed them. ¹¹ The waters covered their adversaries, not one of them survived. ¹² Then they believed His promises and sang His praise. ¹³ But they soon *forgot* what He'd done and didn't wait for His plan to unfold. ¹⁴ In the desert they gave in to their craving; in the wilderness they put God to the test.

1. Think

Psalms 77:12 - I will ponder all Your work, and meditate on Your mighty deeds.

2. Thank

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Psalm 9:1 - I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will recount all of Your wonderful deeds.

3. Tell

Joshua 4:21-22 - Then Joshua said to the Israelites, “In the future your children will ask, ‘What do these stones mean?’ You are to tell them, ‘Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.’”

4. Transcribe

Keep a journal.

5. Taste

The purpose of the Lord's Supper is to remember.

Jesus: "Do this in remembrance of Me."

v. 7 - So he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the contention of the children of Israel.

Psalm 95:7-9 - Today, if you hear His voice don't harden your hearts as you did at Meribah... where your fathers tested and *tried Me*, though they'd seen My work.

v. 5-6 - And the Lord said to Moses, “Go on before the people, and take with you some of the elders of Israel. (Usually the elders would judge a case) Also take in your hand your staff with which you struck the river, and go. ⁶ Behold, I'll stand before you there on the rock in Horeb; and you shall *strike the rock*, and water will

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come out of it, that the people may drink.” And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.

1 Cor. 10:4 - They drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and *that rock was Christ*.

#2 - You Need A Staff You Can Raise

v. 8 - *Now Amalek came and fought with Israel in Rephidim.*

Ephesians 6:12 - Our struggle isn't against flesh and blood, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Deut. 25:17-18 - Remember what the Amalekites did to you along your way from Egypt, how they met you on your journey when you were *tired and weary*, and they attacked all who *lagged behind*;

v. 9-13 - Moses said to Joshua, “Choose us some men and go out, fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I'll stand on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand.”¹⁰ So Joshua did as Moses said to him, and fought with Amalek. And Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.¹¹ And so it was, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed; and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.¹² But Moses' hands became heavy; so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it. And Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.¹³ So Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.

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1. Work like it all depends on you. Pray like it all depends on God.

Eph. 6:10-11, 18 - Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the power of *His might*. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil... *Praying always* with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit.

2. Teamwork makes the dream work.

3. Lift somebody up.

4. Give God the glory.

v. 15 - And Moses built an altar and called its name, The-*Lord-Is-My-Banner*.

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#1 - You Need A Rock You Can _____

1 Cor. 10:10 - Don't complain, as some of them did, and were killed by the destroying angel.

How did they complain?

1. They Demanded God's _____.

"Give us water to drink!"

2. They Denied God's _____.

"You've brought us out of Egypt to kill us!"

3. They Doubted God's _____.

"Is the Lord among us or not?"

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Five ways to remember.

1. _____

Psalm 77:12 - I will ponder all Your work, and meditate on Your mighty deeds.

2. _____

Psalm 9:1 - I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will recount all of Your wonderful deeds.

3. _____

Joshua 4:21-22 - Then Joshua said to the Israelites, “In the future your children will ask, ‘What do these stones mean?’ You are to tell them, ‘Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.’”

4. _____

5. _____

Luke 22:19 - "Do this in remembrance of Me."

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1 Cor. 10:4 - They drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ.

#2 - You Need A Staff You Can _____

Four thoughts:

1. _____ like it all depends on you. _____ like it all depends on God.

2. _____ makes the dream work.

A need seen is an assignment given.

3. _____.

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4. _____.