When Faithful Leaders Crack

Numbers 20

Faithfulness Does Not Make Us Immune to Failure



In the first month the whole Israelite community arrived at the Desert of Zin, and they stayed at Kadesh. There Miriam died and was buried.

2 Now there was no water for the community, and the people gathered in opposition to Moses and Aaron. 3 They quarreled with Moses and said, "If only we had died when our brothers fell dead before the Lord! 4 Why did you bring the Lord's community into this wilderness, that we and our livestock should die here? 5 Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to this terrible place? It has no grain or figs, grapevines or pomegranates. And there is no water to drink!"

Numbers 20:1-5

6 Moses and Aaron went from the assembly to the entrance to the tent of meeting
and fell facedown, and the glory of the Lord appeared to them. 7 The Lord said to
Moses, 8 "Take the staff, and you and your brother Aaron gather the assembly
together. Speak to that rock before their eyes and it will pour out its water. You
will bring water out of the rock for the community so they and their livestock can
drink."

9 So Moses took the staff from the Lord's presence, just as he commanded him.

Numbers 20:6-9

10 He and Aaron gathered the assembly together in front of the rock
and Moses said to them, "Listen, you rebels, must we bring you
water out of this rock?" 11 Then Moses raised his arm and struck the
rock twice with his staff. Water gushed out, and the community
and their livestock drank.

Numbers 20:10-11

12 But the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them."
13 These were the waters of Meribah, where the Israelites quarreled with the Lord and where he was proved holy among them.

Numbers 20:12-13



Who is Moses:

The Most Faithful?

- Confronted Pharaoh
- Led Israel out of slavery
- Parted the Red Sea
- Received the law from God
- Shepherded Israel for forty years

People | Pressure | Problems



″The Right Framework doesn′t Guarantee the Right Outcome‶

Faithfulness Framework

- Removed themselves from the chaos
- Went to God's presence
- Humbled themselves before Him
- Received clear instruction

When The Crack is Revealed



How the Crack Reveals itself

- It appears in his Tone
  - ″Listen, you rebels…″
- It appears in his Perspective
  - ″Must we bring you water out of this rock?″
- It appears in his Actions
  - ″Strikes the rock twice″







Cracks have Consequences

"Faithfulness isn't about what we accomplish.
It's about what we reveal about God to the people watching our lives."