

Today I want to talk to you about how undirected anger can rob you of the blessings of God.

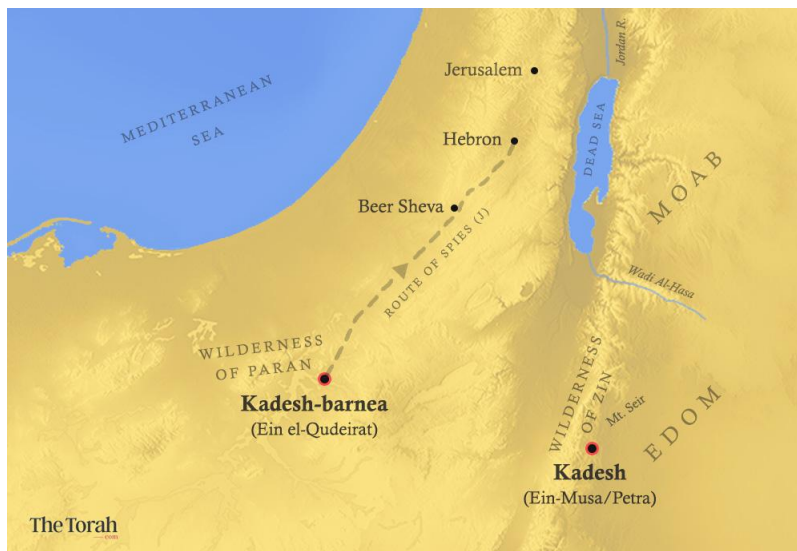
James 1:20 "For the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God."

Ephesians 4:26 "Be angry, but do not sin..."

Numbers 20:1-13

(1) Then the children of Israel, the whole congregation, came into the **Wilderness of Zin** in the first month, and the people stayed in **Kadesh**;

and **Miriam died there** and was buried there.



(2) Now there **was no water** for the congregation;

A) They had no water. The Israelites had been in the wilderness for 38 years.

In that time, they had experienced hunger, thirst, rebellion, war and punishment. Walking with God does not exempt us from life of needs and wants....

B) Yet, In that time, they had also experienced God's provisions.

Nehemiah 9:21 - Forty years You sustained them in the wilderness; They lacked nothing; Their clothes did not wear out and their feet did not swell.

so they gathered together against Moses and Aaron. (3) And the people contended with Moses and spoke, saying: "If only we **had died when our brethren died** before the LORD!

(4) Why have you brought up the assembly of the LORD into this wilderness, **that we and our animals should die here?**

(5) And why have you made us come up out of Egypt, **to bring us to this evil place?** It is **not a**

place of grain or figs or vines or pomegranates; nor is there any water to drink."

A) How we handle ourselves in time of need are important. In this case, the Israelites erred.

1. Only if we had Died with our brethren
2. You want us to die here
3. Brought us to this evil place
4. No fresh food or water

(6) So, Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly to the door of the tabernacle of meeting, and **they fell on their faces**. And the glory of the LORD appeared to them.

PRAYER

(7) Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, (8) **"Take the rod; you and your brother Aaron gather the congregation together. Speak to the rock before their eyes, and it will yield its**

water; thus **you shall bring water for them out of the rock, and** give drink to the congregation and their animals."

A) God gave them specific instructions:

1. Take the Rod – This is Aarons Rod which was kept in the Tabernacle (Numbers 17)

Numbers 17:10

(10) And the LORD said to Moses, "Bring Aaron's rod back before the Testimony, to be **kept as a sign against the rebels**, that you may put their **complaints away from Me**, lest they die."

The Rod held the sign of Authority and a reminder not to contend with God's authority.

2. Gather the congregation. This is so that everyone would see Aaron's rod and remind them of God's authority. The presence of this Rod was undeniable. They knew it was Aarons Rod.

3. Speak to the rock – Speaking to the rock was much different than the previous action, where

they hit the rock. There was a purpose in everything God instructed Moses to do.

(9) So Moses took the rod **from before the LORD** as He commanded him.

(10) And Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock; and he said to them, "Hear now, you rebels! **Must we bring** water for you out of this rock?"

(11) Then Moses lifted his hand and struck the **rock twice with his rod**; and water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their animals drank.

(12) Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, "Because **you did not believe Me**, to **hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel**, therefore, you **shall not bring** this assembly into the land which I have given them." (13) This was the water of Meriah, because the children of Israel contended with the LORD, and He was hallowed among them.

A) What happened? While the text does not explicitly state the detailed issue of what may have happened, the severity of punishment gives us a key to understanding the whole picture.

1. Let's look at this... Moses and Aaron were told to take Aarons Rod. They were supposed to speak to the Rock. The Rock was to give water.
2. Instead: Moses and Aaron took the Rod. Spoke to the people. Moses hit the rock with his rod. Water came out abundantly. Because of Moses action: God was angry with Moses refused for him to go in.
3. Moses recollection of the punishment.

Deuteronomy 1:37 The LORD was also angry with me for your sakes (on account of), saying, 'Even you shall not go in there.

We also read further...

Deuteronomy 3:23-26 "Then I pleaded with the LORD at that time, (after the water) saying:
(24) 'O Lord GOD, You have begun to show Your servant Your greatness and Your mighty hand, for what god is there in heaven or on earth

who can do anything like Your works and Your mighty deeds? (25) I pray, **let me cross over and see the good land beyond the Jordan,** those pleasant mountains, and Lebanon.' (26) "But the LORD was angry with me on your account, and **would not listen to me.** So the LORD said to me: '**Enough of that! Speak no more to Me of this matter.**

4. Why the severity, why the anger against Moses. The Israelites did worse, Moses and God in 38 years had conversations. Moses was God's right-hand man. Then for hitting the Rock Moses could not enter.

5. What if, I mean just if, Moses hit the rock with "his" rod. Imagine this... Moses and Aaron are standing there with Aarons Rod. Moses is angry and turns to speak to the people in anger. Then says he will give them water and hits the rock with "his rod" twice.

Moses crossed the line. It was to be God's power, God's authority, and Moses took the glory. Here is a man who used the authority

of God to bring him glory and power and not God.

James 4:6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "GOD RESISTS THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE."

Paul was sent a messenger of Satan to keep him humble.

2 Corinthians 12:7 And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.

In conclusion,

In this story, the people are rebellious, Moses is rebellious, and but watch this.... God still gave them water abundantly.

2 Timothy 2:13

"If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself."