

— Exodus 17.1-7 —  
Exodus Series 23  
**Water from the Rock**

Ex 17 <sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> 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?" <sup>3</sup> And the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses, and said, "Why is it you have brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" <sup>4</sup> So Moses cried out to the LORD, saying, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me!" <sup>5</sup> And the LORD said to Moses, "Go on before the people, and take with you some of the elders of Israel. Also take in your hand your rod with which you struck the river, and go. <sup>6</sup> Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink." And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup> So he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the contention of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

► We come today to the fourth of five tests God gave to his people following the exodus and on the way to Mt Sinai, also known as Mt Horeb. The first and the last of those tests consist of attacking \_\_\_\_\_. In between, there are three tests involving \_\_\_\_\_.

► To understand these tests with depth and to take away the lessons we should, it's important we remember the ongoing theme of two leavens – the old, evil leaven that must be \_\_\_\_\_, and the new, righteous leaven that must be \_\_\_\_\_ so it grows and transforms. This leaven imagery runs throughout Scripture.

Mt 16 <sup>6</sup> "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees" ... <sup>12</sup> the [ir] doctrine

Lk 12 <sup>1</sup> "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy."

Mt 13.33 "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened."

Gal 5.9 A little leaven leavens the whole lump.

1Cor 5 <sup>6</sup> Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? <sup>7</sup> Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. <sup>8</sup> Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Glorying –

Malice –

Wickedness –

Sincerity –

Truth –

Kingdom leaven –

1Cor 13 <sup>4</sup> Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; <sup>5</sup> does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; <sup>6</sup> does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; <sup>7</sup> bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

► In each one of the tests of God's exodus people, one of two leavens is dominating, and that tells us which leaven they have been feeding and which leaven they have been starving.

• Test 1 (Ex 14): Pharaoh and his army attacking at the Red Sea.

Ex 14 <sup>11</sup> "Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? ... <sup>12</sup> It is better to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness" ... <sup>31</sup> Th[en] Israel saw the great work which the LORD had done ... so the people ... believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

• Test 2 (Ex 15.22-27): Privation of drinkable water at Marah.

Ex 15 <sup>24</sup> And the people complain against Moses: "What shall we drink?"

- Test 3 (Ex 16) – Privation of food in the wilderness.

Ex 16<sup>3</sup> “Oh, that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and when we ate bread to the full! For you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

- Test 4 (Ex 17.1-7): Privation of water at Rephidim

Ex 17<sup>3</sup> “Why is it you have brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?” ...<sup>7</sup> “Is the Lord among us or not?”

1Cor 10<sup>4</sup> They drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.

► As we move toward application, let’s look at how these same criteria were applied to the NT Christians at Corinth.

- The Corinthians were in a completely different setting.

• Ancient Corinth bore a number of resemblances to modern America.

• Into this environment came the Apostle Paul and established the Corinthian church.

• But we also see a threat to the work of Christ in the Corinthian’s midst. Paul says in so many words that all of their problems stemmed from old \_\_\_\_\_, including:

- Their toleration of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Their proud \_\_\_\_\_.
- Their perversion of the Lord’s \_\_\_\_\_.
- Their flirtation with \_\_\_\_\_.
- Their constant \_\_\_\_\_.
- Their \_\_\_\_\_ over their knowledge and gifts, while having a paucity of spiritual \_\_\_\_\_.

► Spirituality, maturity, power, Christ’s pleasure and willingness to do great things through us are all measured in terms of kingdom \_\_\_\_\_, the fruit of the \_\_\_\_\_.