

Exodus 17

Respect the Word

- Bread from Heaven

I. Water from the Rock

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

- Leave Wilderness of Sin to Rephidim **"according to the commandment of LORD"**
- God leading them with a Cloud by Day/Fire by Night

1b...but there was no water for the people to drink. 2 Therefore the people contended with Moses, and said, "Give us water, that we may drink."

- **NOTE:** They did what God commanded v1 and still no water?

They were in the will of God and still having a hard time?
Sometimes we won't have "a peace about it" when we are in the Lord's will

- Contended with Moses because no water: Lit. *Chided* Moses

2b...So Moses said to them, "Why do you contend with me? Why do you tempt the Lord?"

Contending with God's Prophet Moses was in essence contending with God

- **Witnessing:** I'm just the messenger of God's Word; Take it up with God

3 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?"

- **Complaining increases as journey continues: You want to...**
 1. Kill us
 2. Kill Children
 3. Kill Livestock with thirst?

4 So Moses cried out to the Lord, saying, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me!"

- Majority rule/congregational voting would not end well for Moses here

Note: Moses continues leading even while under pressure and unfair attack

- **Moses goes to the Lord:** What do I do with these people?

5 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.

- Take elders and take your staff and *go to the people*:
- **Don't run from trouble. Run to trouble. Like a bull.**

6 [Lord speaking] 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."

I the Lord will stand before you Moses

- Faith of Moses knowing God is with him
 1. Strike the Rock
 2. Water will come out of Solid Rock
 3. The people will drink

6b...And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.

Water from the Rock: Eternal Life from Jesus

- **Jesus is the Rock**

1. **Jesus the Rock:** Struck once and sufficient to pay for our sins in full

Isaiah 53:4 Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.

2. **Jesus is the Rock:** Makes men stumble; i.e. Fall on Him/be crushed by Him

1 Peter 2:8 [Jesus is] "A stone of stumbling And a rock of offense."

3. **Jesus is the Rock:** That Redeems. Bought us back for sin and devil

Psalms 78:35 ...they remembered that God was their rock, And the Most High God their Redeemer.

4. **Jesus is the Rock:** Only Foundation Rock

1 Corinthians 3:11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

- Rock was struck on the cross and water gushed out

John 19:34 ...one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.

- **Spirit of God is represented by Water from the Rock**

John 7:37 On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." 39 But this He spoke concerning

the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive

- Moses struck the Rock and Water gushed out

7 So [Moses] 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?**"

- **Massah:** Contention
- **Meribah:** Tempted

Deuteronomy 6:16 You shall not tempt the LORD your God as you tempted Him in Massah

Deuteronomy 9:22 at... Massah ... you provoked the LORD to wrath

Deuteronomy 33:8 Your holy one, Whom You tested at Massah, and with whom You contended at the waters of Meribah

- **Though God blessed He was not pleased...at all.**

Because they said ..."**Is the Lord among us or not?**"

Taking God's goodness for granted? Where is their fear of the Lord? God is with us!

- **2 Responses to God's Grace/Goodness:**
 1. Take His Grace to Heart and Praise
 2. Take God's Grace for Granted and Complain
- **Take His grace to heart:** Grace is designed to lead us to forsake sin

Romans 2:4do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the **goodness of God leads you to repentance?**

- **Take His Grace for granted:**

Hebrews 10:26 [Read]...if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. 28 Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?

Those who were shown/rejected grace did not make it to the Promise Land

1 Corinthians 10:1 [Read] Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, 2 all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, 3 all ate the same spiritual food, 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink.

- **Spiritual Food:** Manna
- **Spiritual Drink:** Water from Rock

4b...For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.

- All had the opportunity to trust God as we do

5 But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. 6 Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.

- **Old Testament:** Physical Representation of a New Testament Spiritual Truth

Q: Why did God continue to show Grace even after all the complaining?

A: God's grace [Kindness] designed to lead to repentance or judgment will follow

- **Here a Warning**

7 And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play." 8 Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell; 9 nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; 10 nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer.

- **Do not become an idolater:** Create a false-god of your own making who does not mind complaining or sexual immorality. [Result: Bodies scattered in wilderness]
- Do not tempt Christ by complaining

11 Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. 12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. 13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

- **What is the temptation?** Taking advantage of God's goodness
- **How do we know we are:** Complaining/Lack of Fear/Unbelief
- **How do we know we are not:** Praise/Fear of God/Trusting in God

Lord now allows Israel's enemy Amalek to come against them

II. War: No Quarter

8 Now Amalek came and fought with Israel in Rephidim.

- Disobedience opened doors for the enemy

Amalek: Perpetual enemy of God's people and descendants or Esau. Amalek is a picture of our sinful nature otherwise known as **"the flesh"** warring against the Spirit

Biblical definition of Flesh: [Self-Life/Life apart from God] Physical body as functioning entity; in Apostle Paul's thought especially, all parts of the body constitute a totality known as "flesh", which is dominated by sin to such a degree that ***wherever flesh is, all forms of sin are likewise present, and no good thing can live.*** [Why we are to walk in the Spirit]

Romans 7:18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells...

**Old Testament a physical representation of a New Testament Spiritual Truth
Now Amalek came and fought with Israel?**

The Flesh [Amalek] now rises up to **exploit Israel's disobedience to God.**

Romans 7:8 But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all manner of evil desire.

Sin nature looks for a chink in the armor of God's people; Here? **Lack of Fear of God...**

Psalms 34:7 The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, And delivers them.

The angel of the Lord breaks camp from those who take Him for granted

- Previously God led them away from their enemies. Now allows an attack
- **Important:** We are left unprotected from danger **when we do not fear the Lord**

9 And Moses said to Joshua, "**Choose us some men** and go out, fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod 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.

- **Joshua:** Steps onto pages of Scripture; First mention
- Moses to **Joshua**
 1. Choose some men
 2. Go fight Amalek

11 And so it was, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed; and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.

- **From Bondage to Freedom to War:**
 1. Hands up Israel wins
 2. Hands down Israel loses/ men die
- **No letting up against our enemy:**
 1. Constant battle against Devil, World, and Flesh
 2. Give No Quarter

In war, a victor gives no quarter (or takes no prisoners) when the victor shows no clemency or mercy and refuses to spare the life of a vanquished opponent in return for their surrender at discretion (unconditional surrender).

- **No Quarter for the Flesh:** Kill all...

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.

- Moses found rest on the Stone
- Aaron and Hur held up Moses hands all day

Ecclesiastes 4:9 Two are better than one, Because they have a good reward for their labor. 10 For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, For he has no one to help him up. 11 Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; But how can one be warm alone? 12 Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

- **Threefold Chord:** Husband/Wife/God or 2 friends and the Lord
- **Jonathan and David:** Jonathan "strengthened David in the Lord"

13 So Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.

- Moses [Law] can only do so much
- Only Joshua [Spirit] can have victory over the flesh

Colossians 1:23 [trying to keep regulations/laws] indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of **no value against the indulgence of the flesh.**

- **No power stop sinning in the Law [Moses]**
- **Power is in Jesus...**Power of His Spirit in us...

Romans 8:3 For **what the law could not do** in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

- What Moses could not do, Joshua could! Defeat the flesh.
 1. **Moses Meaning:** Pull out/Draw out

Romans 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the **law is the knowledge of sin.** [The law "draws out" sin for us to see]

2. Joshua **Meaning:** YHWH Saves
 - a. Yehoshu'a
 - b. Original Hebrew form of "Jesus"
 - c. Washes us of sin

**Moses could not bring them into the Promised Land [Salvation]
Joshua/Jesus was able**

14 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Write this for a memorial in the book and recount it in the hearing of Joshua..."

- Joshua would take them into the Promised Land, abundant life.
- Joshua would have this victory in writing along with the following promise...

....that I [God] will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven."

- **Prophecy:** One day there will be no more Amalekites
- Saul was supposed to fulfill this Prophecy and wipe out the Amalekites:

1 Samuel 15:13 [Read]...Samuel went to Saul, and Saul said to him, "Blessed are you of

the Lord! **I have performed the commandment of the Lord.** 14 "But Samuel said, "What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?" ...**20** And Saul said to Samuel, "But I have obeyed the voice of the Lord, and gone on the mission on which the Lord sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites...**23** For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He also has rejected you from being king." ...**32** Then Samuel said, "Bring Agag king of the Amalekites here to me." So Agag came to him cautiously. And Agag said, "Surely the bitterness of death is past." 33 But Samuel said, "As your sword has made women childless, so shall your mother be childless among women." And **Samuel hacked Agag in pieces before the Lord in Gilgal.**

- Saul disobeyed/ did not fulfill the Prophecy at this time. Other Amalekites survived
- Later in the Book of Esther a guy named Haman had a grudge against Jews
- Planned to exterminate. Haman was an Agagite, descendant of those Saul let live

The Flesh must be utterly destroyed or it will rise up again!

15 And Moses built an altar and called its name, The-Lord-Is-My-Banner; 16 for he said, "Because the Lord has sworn: the Lord will have war with Amalek from generation to generation."

- Moses knew it was God who won the Battle
- An act of worship: Built an altar to Yahweh-Nissi [THE-LORD-IS-MY-BANNER]
- War from generation to generation: No one is exempt

God hates the fleshly [sinful] nature seeking self-reliance and rebellion against Him

Romans 9:13 As it is written, "Jacob I have loved, but **Esau I have hated.**"

God hates the flesh. The flesh hates us and rises up against us

- The second we became Christians we were in it ...in the fight
- World system, Devil, and the **Flesh seeks to exploit our weakness**

Deuteronomy 25:17 [Read] "Remember what Amalek did to you on the way as you were coming out of Egypt, 18 how he met you on the way and attacked your **rear ranks, all the stragglers at your rear, when you were tired and weary**; and he did not fear God. 19 Therefore it shall be, when the Lord your God has given you rest from your enemies all around, in the land which the Lord your God is giving you to possess as an inheritance, that you will blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven. You shall not forget.

- **Physical:** More details on the attack; targeted rear ranks, stragglers, tired, weary
- David disobeyed God and went to live among his enemies

1 Samuel 30:1 when David and his men came to Ziklag, on the third day, that the Amalekites had invaded the South and Ziklag, attacked Ziklag and burned it with fire, 2 and had taken captive the women and those who were there, from small to great; they did not kill anyone, but carried them away and went their way.

- **Spiritual:** Flesh exploits inability/weakness to keep the law; i.e. keep up, be good
 1. Encourages us to **Give in**

2. Emboldens us to **Give up**

2 Corinthians 3:6 [God]... made us sufficient as ministers of the **new covenant**, not of the letter [law] but of the Spirit; for the **letter [law] kills**, but the Spirit gives life.

- Apostle Paul personally knew this struggle between Flesh and Spirit
- Wanting to be/do good and not being able to

Romans 7:14 [Read] ...we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin.

- Law is good and spiritual
- I am evil and carnal
- The law cannot give me victory:
 1. Law draws sin out: Moses
 2. Spirit gives victory over sin: Joshua/Jesus

Romans 7 Continued...15 For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. 16 If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good. 17 But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. 18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. 19 For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice.

- **v15** I don't know why I do the things I do [Stay in Romans 7]

Galatians 5:19 ...the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like

- **v16** I try to do good and end up doing the things I hate
- **v17** I have God's Spirit but my Old Nature still resides causing me to sin
- **v18** In my Old Nature [Flesh] is no good intent. It prevents me from doing good.
- **v19** I want to do good and fail. Try hard to keep the God's law and fail every time

Romans 7 Continued...20 Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. 21 I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. 22 For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. 23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. 24 O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.

- **v20** If who I am in Christ wants to do good and I don't.. it must be my Old Nature
- **v21** Evil dwells concurrently within me... the one who desires to do good
- **v22** I know the Spirit of God within me loves to keep God's law...please God
- **v23** Another rebellious law/motivator [Law of sin] rises up within me.
 1. Wars against the Spirit of God in me
 2. Wars against my true desire to do good
 3. Makes me a slave to my fleshly ungodly desires.
 4. My body controls me instead of me being in control of my body

- **V24** I am a wretched man; i.e. afflicted torn in two, imbalanced

Why does God allow our Flesh to War against our Spirit?

Judges 3:1 Now these are the nations which the Lord left, that He might test Israel by them, that is, all who had not known any of the wars in Canaan 2 (this was only so that the generations of the children of **Israel might be taught to know war.**

Why does God allow our Flesh to War: That we might continue to cry out to Him Desire to purge the Flesh and Walk in His Spirit...Keeps us Hopping

Romans 7:6 But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter.

How to have victory over the Flesh: Give No Quarter. Utterly Destroy

Two dogs battling within us...Black Dog [Flesh] fighting White Dog [Spirit]
Which one wins? The one you feed.

1. **Purge it:** Fasting. Purging the Flesh and Feeding the Spirit. Show who is boss

Matthew 4:1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 And when He had **fasted forty days** and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. 3 Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." 4 But He answered and said, "It is written, '**Man shall not live by bread alone**, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'

Matthew 6:17 ... **when you fast**, anoint your head and wash your face, 18 so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

Acts 13:2 As [the early Church] **ministered to the Lord and fasted**, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." 3 Then, **having fasted and prayed**, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.

Luke 5:35 ...the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them; then **they will fast in those days.**"

- **First Purge it:** Fasting

2. **Next, Punch it:** Self-Discipline. Show who is stronger

1 Corinthians 9:24 [Read] Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. 25 And everyone who competes for the prize is **temperate in all things**. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. 26 Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. 27 But **I discipline my body and bring it into subjection**, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

2 Timothy 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind [**self-control**].

Galatians 5:22 ...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, **self-control**...

- Purge it: Fasting, Punch it: Self-Discipline

3. **Lastly, Pierce it:** Sword of the Spirit; i.e. Word of God. Show who is better

Romans 12:1 [Read] I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the **renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. [Brainwashed]

Purge/Punch/Pierce: **All under the Power of the Holy Spirit**
Key: Walking in the Spirit is Victory over the Flesh

Galatians 5:16 [Read] I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and **you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.** 17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are **not under the law.**

If you are trying to keep the Law of God you have already lost the Battle hands down
If you are trusting in Joshua/Jesus to hold up your hands...Victory is sure
Through Christ we can walk in the Spirit not under God's Law...an entirely new way of Life...a Victorious, Purposeful, Productive, Holy and Abundant Life.

2 Corinthians 3:6 ...for the letter [law] kills, **but the Spirit gives life.**