

A. SERMON SLIDES

Slide 1: Title
Hope of Living Water
Exodus 17:1-7

Slide 2:
From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

Slide 3:
1 Corinthians 10:11 (ESV)
Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.

Slide 4:
What does sanctification look like?

Slide 5:
I. What do we perceive as the problem that causes discomfort?
II. What is the actual Problem that causes discomfort?
III. How does God solve the Problem?

Slide 6:
What We Think The Problem Is

No Water!

Slide 7:
Quarrel = "ryb" = formal legal charges

Slide 8:
"What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me."

Slide 9:
2 Corinthians 4:17 (ESV)
For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison.
Romans 8:18 (ESV)
For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

Slide 10:
The Actual Problem
We have a dogged sin nature that will not easily submit to the patient, persistent and gracious leadership and love from God

Slide 11:
“Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?”

Slide 12:
The compression of human history allows us the perspective to see God's loving kindness, and our unrelenting evil nature

Slide 13:
It isn't our environment that makes us question God, it's our hearts. Even in Eden when everything was perfect, we questioned the goodness of God.

Slide 14:
"Bad emotions, bad parents and bad feedback have more impact than good ones. Bad impressions and bad stereotypes are quicker to form and more resistant to disconfirmation than good ones. Put another way, you are more upset about losing \$50 than you are happy about gaining \$50."
Roy Baumeister: Bad Is Stronger Than Good

Slide 15:
God Solves The Problem

Slide 16:
1 Corinthians 10:3-4 (ESV)
For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.

B. GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Please read Exodus 17:1-7, and put yourself in the story. How do you feel as you have been led into a place of no water? Are you concerned? Tired? Confused? How would you process facing death once again? Who are you questioning, and why?
2. Talk for a bit about the problem of having no water. Also talk about the other very real "problems" that we, or others have faced in our lives. What are some circumstances out of our control that come upon us? Do we try to assert control? Do we grumble? Do we "press charges" against God or others?
3. How do we minister to others who are walking through these very real problems? Do we agree and empathize? Do we help them to refocus and call them to a greater activation of faith? Do we leave them alone and let them struggle alone? Do we blame others with them? Do we defend God? Do we sit and listen?
Are all of these possibilities?
What are some ways that we have misunderstood comfort, and have entered-in to a lack of faith? What are some ways that we have failed to enter-in to the hurt of others in the name of the proclamation of truth?
4. What is the actual Problem facing the Hebrew nation, that God is trying to heal?
5. How does God solve BOTH problems...the one that is temporary (and will never be healed) and the one which is permanent (and will never be a problem again)?
6. Prayer and Praise