

## "Meribah"

### Opening Announcements

### Opening Prayer

Q: Have you ever been "thirsty"? What's the difference between physical "thirst" and "metaphorical thirst"?

Q: What usually happens when you don't or can't get a "drink"?

**READ: Numbers 20:2-5** "Now there was no water for the congregation. And they assembled themselves together against Moses and against Aaron. <sup>3</sup> And the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Would that we had perished when our brothers perished before the Lord! <sup>4</sup> Why have you brought the assembly of the Lord into this wilderness, that we should die here, both we and our cattle? <sup>5</sup> And why have you made us come up out of Egypt to bring us to this evil place? It is no place for grain or figs or vines or pomegranates, and there is no water to drink."

Q: According to verse 2-3, what did the people do in light of their situation?

Q: When they say in verse 3, they wish they had "perished when our brothers perished", what are they talking about? (Hint: we covered this last week)

Q: Why is THAT an extreme reaction?

Q: What does that teach us about their learning from their history?

Q: How are we the same?

Q: According to verses 4-5, what are they longing for or comparing their current situation with?

Q: How does this reveal their heart towards God and Moses and Aaron?

**READ: Numbers 20:6-9** "Then Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly to the entrance of the tent of meeting and fell on their faces. And the glory of the Lord appeared to them, <sup>7</sup> and the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>8</sup> "Take the staff, and assemble the congregation, you and Aaron your brother, and tell the rock before their eyes to yield its water. So you shall bring water out of the rock for them and give drink to the congregation and their cattle." <sup>9</sup> And Moses took the staff from before the Lord, as he commanded him."

Q: What was Moses and Aarons' reaction?

Q: What does the Lord tell them to do?

Q: How is THAT gracious and merciful?

**READ: Numbers 10-13** " Then Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock, and he said to them, "Hear now, you rebels: shall we bring water for you out of this rock?" <sup>11</sup> And Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock with his staff twice, and water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their livestock. <sup>12</sup> And the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not believe in me, to uphold me as holy in the eyes of the people of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land that I have given them." <sup>13</sup> These are the waters of Meribah, where the people of Israel quarreled with the Lord, and through them he showed himself holy."

Q: How does verse 10 show Moses' attitude?

Q: In verse 11, what does Moses do in front of the people?

Q: How is THAT different than what God said to do?

Q: Why do you think Moses did this?

Q: Is there any evidence that the people knew that Moses had sinned?

Q: According to verse 12, what's God's judgment on Moses?

Q: Why does God judge Moses like this?

Q: Have you ever been in a situation where you took matters in your own hands, or struck out in frustration and anger, even though God has said to forgive, or be patient or\_\_\_\_\_?

Q: What's the consequences of ALL disobedience (regardless of who you are)?

Q: What can we learn from this sad situation?