

## “Water From the Rock”

Numbers 20-1:13

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20 In the first month the whole Israelite community arrived at the Desert of Zin, and they stayed at Kadesh. There Miriam died and was buried.

<sup>2</sup> Now there was no water for the community, and the people gathered in opposition to Moses and Aaron. <sup>3</sup> They quarreled with Moses and said, “If only we had died when our brothers fell dead before the LORD! <sup>4</sup> Why did you bring the LORD’s community into this wilderness, that we and our livestock should die here? <sup>5</sup> Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to this terrible place? It has no grain or figs, grapevines or pomegranates. And there is no water to drink!”

<sup>6</sup> Moses and Aaron went from the assembly to the entrance to the tent of meeting and fell facedown, and the glory of the LORD appeared to them. <sup>7</sup> The LORD said to Moses, <sup>8</sup> “Take the staff, and you and your brother Aaron gather the assembly together. Speak to that rock before their eyes and it will pour out its water. You will bring water out of the rock for the community so they and their livestock can drink.”

<sup>9</sup> So Moses took the staff from the LORD’s presence, just as he commanded him. <sup>10</sup> He and Aaron gathered the assembly together in front of the rock and Moses said to them, “Listen, you rebels, must we bring you water out of this rock?” <sup>11</sup> Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with his staff. Water gushed out, and the community and their livestock drank.

<sup>12</sup> But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, “Because you did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them.”

<sup>13</sup> These were the waters of Meribah, <sup>[a]</sup> where the Israelites quarreled with the LORD and where he was proved holy among them.

### Questions:

- 1) What is it about Moses’ actions that so angers God?
- 2) When God declares to Moses that he will not be permitted to lead the people of Israel into the Promised Land, what reason did the Lord give to Moses and Aaron?
- 3) How do you process this “reason” from question #2 in your own life? Explain.
- 4) Failure is such a negative term and feeling in the world. It is even harder when your actions seem to be successful but later you are rebuked by God. Can you think of a situation where you felt you were honoring God to later figure out you were fulfilling your own ego or plans? How did you come to realize your failure?
- 5) What external pressures are likely to influence the way in which you carry out God’s commands?