

Life of Moses Study (November 1, 2020)

OPENING QUESTION:

SERMON DISCUSSION: How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

READ Exodus 17:1-7

1. Describe how the complaints of the Israelites had elevated to a more defiant level. How could they have voiced their dissatisfaction differently? Have you ever expressed your complaints in a way you later regretted and what did you learn?

2. Recall the Lord's daily provision for His people (Exodus 16:4, 21a). What does His faithful provision reveal about the Israelite's complaint at Rhiphidim?

3. In what ways do the Israelites' hearts reflect Pharaoh's rather than the hearts of a people belonging to God (Psalm 95:7-10)?

4. Moses pointed out to the Israelites that their complaint was not against him, but against God. Yet, when Moses went to God, his focus was on himself by asking, "What I am to do with this people?" Share your thoughts about Moses' response.

5. **Who** did the Lord direct Moses to bring to Horeb with him and **what** was He to take? Why do you think these instructions were significant?

6. Where did God stand at Horeb? "Who" do you think God was commanding Moses to strike at the rock? How is this a picture of our salvation (Psalm 18:2; 95:1; 1 Corinthians 10:1-4; John 4:14)?

7. **NOTE REGARDING THE NAMING GIVEN BY MOSES:** "In Hebrew, "Massah" means "testing/trial/temptation," and "Meribah" means "protest/contention/quarrel/strife." Does the fact that Moses chose two names for the site hint at the deep concern he had about the rebellion in which he had participated? ... The text does not say, but it may be reasonable to assume that the preservation of the two names and repeated reference to the place and event in later biblical literature including his own writing in Numbers and Deuteronomy suggest that Moses understood already the significance of what the Israelites had done and his acquiesce to it." (The New American Commentary-Exodus by Douglas K. Stuart)

After naming the place Massah and Meribah, Moses concludes with "they tested the Lord by saying, 'is the Lord among us or not?'" (Exodus 17:7) Explain the various reasons for the absurdity of this question. What absurd question are you asking lately?