

LEARNING TO TRUST GOD

Ex 17:1-7

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

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?"

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

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.

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

7 So he 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?"

II. Israel had a need.....no water to drink

A. The spiritual level of people comes out when they are in the midst of having A need:

1. In this case, we see the immaturity of Israel when they were in the midst of having a need:

a. vs 2 “..the people contended with Moses”

(1) Def Contended: to complain, to cause controversy, strife

B. Immature believers always react in the flesh, and only see things from the In light of the natural realm:

1. Israel had no revelation of whom they were actually in contention with:

a. they lost sight of the fact that Pastor Moses was:

(1) in pursuit of the will of God

(2) and following the leading of the Holy Spirit:

(a) Ex 13:21 And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night.

22 He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day or the pillar of fire by night from before the people.

2. It is important to remember that.....even though we may be following the Leading of The Spirit of God:

- a. That does not mean that we will have needs in our life and ministry
- b. Does not mean that we will not face battles and trials of life

(1) The Cloud & Pillar of fire was right there....

(2) They had not missed God's leading...yet a need still manifested

(3) You will discover that the same applies to our life, walk with God & Ministry today:

- (a) You can be in the center of God's will
- (b) Following the leading of the Holy Spirit
- (c) Walking by faith, according to God's word
- (d) & needs, trials & battles will still arise

C. What Israel did not understand is that their contention was with God

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

a. Ex 17:7 they tempted the Lord,

2. You might ask, how was Israel tempting God?

a. answer: Ex 17:7 because they tempted the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

(1) Israel had bad doctrine...& in need of teaching

(2) They mistakenly thought that: because they had a need.....

(a) God was no longer with them

(b) Because they had a need going thru a battle...facing a trial

(1) they must have missed God must have missed The Lord
Somewhere along the line

© because everything wasn't going perfect ,,surely God had abandoned them

(c) I pray that you do not believe that way.

II. The real issue for Israel....is the same issue many of us have today: TRUST

A. Israel could only trust God as long as everything was going good

- 1. Israel was so blinded by their need....that vs 3 tells us that they thought they were going to die**
 - a. They literally thought that even though they experienced the strong hand of God on their part, as they were delivered from Egypt**
 - b. Even though God had given them Promises & Prophecies of A Promise Land God would take them into**
 - c. Even though they had the manifest Presence of God in their midst**
 - (1) That God could not be TRUSTED in the midst of having a great need or facing a trial, or battle in life**

B. The Bible calls this: “TEMPTING GOD”

- 1. When WE fail to trust God:**
 - a. we then like Israel, are Tempting God”**

C. Ex 17:7 So he 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?"

- 1. Remember this truth: Many of the names of the places that Israel travelled To in their Wilderness Experience:**
 - a. many of the definitions of the names of those places were lessons Israel had to learn in their walk with God**
- 2. Def Massah: contention / strife**
Def Meribah: tested
 - a. God led Israel by His Spirit to a place called contention, strife, tested So that they would come to place on their walk with God**
 - b. Where they could learn to overcome this immaturity in their relationship with The Lord**
 - c. So that no matter what their need was, regardless of the Trial they faced, or battle they had to be fought:**
 - d. Instead of tempting & testing God: they would have matured to the point of being able to Trust God**

D. Give you some TRUSTING God scriptures:

- 1. Deut 31:6 He will not leave you nor forsake you."**
- 2. Deut 31:8 And the Lord, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed."**
- 3. Heb 13:5 For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."**
- 4. Num 11:23 And the Lord said unto Moses, Is the Lord's hand waxed short? thou shalt see now whether my word shall come to pass unto thee or not.**
- 5. Isa 50:2 Is My hand shortened at all that it cannot redeem? Or have I no power to deliver?**
- 6. Ezek 22:14 the Lord, have spoken, and will do it.**
 - a. What has God spoken to you:**
 - (1) By His Spirit, a rhema word, a prophecy**
 - (2) Do you Trust The Lord to: "DO IT"**

III. Steps to take when Trusting God:

Ex 17:5 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.

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

A. God speaks to Moses and teaches him how to deal with contention and For trusting God:

1. "Take in your hand your ROD with which you struck the river and go"

a. ROD TYPE: symbol of fruitfulness, symbol or rule / authority, symbol of crushing

(1) God was basically telling Moses, don't move in contention, Rather flow in the fruitfulness of a mature believer

(2) and take the rod of authority, that you smote the Nile river with in Egypt before Pharaoh & move in your SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY

(3) and see your authority bring a crushing blow to this need, trial, battle you face:

(a) and we are to take our Rod, The Authority of The Believer in Christ

(b) and God bring a crushing blow to Satan

(c) Rom 16:20 And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly.

(a) note under your feet.....authority

B. Next step to take in Trusting God Ex 17:vs 6 “You shall strike the rock”

1. ROCK: type of Jesus

a. 1 Cor 10:4 “and that Rock was Christ.”

2. We have to learn to take our Rod of Authority and strike the Rock:

a. Or in other words.....speak the word of God,,,,,thus releasing a flow of living waters....blessings of God

b. Get a Prophetic flow going by decreeing the promises of God

(1) Results: Ps 78:16 Behold, He struck the rock, So that the waters gushed out, And the streams overflowed.

(a) we can experience a flow of living waters / a move of the Holy Spirit as we strike the Rock / Jesus by declaring the Promises of God & waging a good warfare by decreeing the prophecies spoken over our life (1 Tim 1:18)

(1) 2 Cor 1:20 For all the promises of God in Him (JESUS) are Yes, and in Him Amen,

B. Ps 125:1 Those who trust in the Lord Are like Mount Zion, Which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

1. Ps 125:1 THOSE WHO trust in, lean on, and confidently hope in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved but abides and stands fast forever. AMP

a. Trust.... Have you learned to trust God to the point that you are immovable like Mt. Zion

b. when a need arises, when you face a trial, or battle

(1) you refrain from tempting God.....wondering if He is with you

(2) and you have learned to strike the Rock..... tap into the Promises of God, through your relationship with Jesus Christ