

Key Idea

God is Just & Merciful.

Romans 11:32 (HCSB)

For God has imprisoned all in disobedience, so that He may have mercy on all.

This is what God's mercy looks like → The Cross

Romans 9:16

So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.

All of Us Need to be Delivered from Sin!

Hebrews 3:3a

Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses—

Clearly Moses was a great deliverer. But what was needed was a greater deliverer—one who would not rebel against God but submit to him, one who would deliver God's people, not just out of their slavery but safely into the land God has promised, one who was not just a servant, but a Son—who, when he sets people free, they are free indeed (John 8:36).ⁱ

Gospel Meditations

- 1. Jesus was struck with God's judgment for us so that we can receive the life giving waters.
- 2. Jesus is watching over us for our good. All we have to do is to ask for God's life. (Cf. Luke 11:13)
- 3. Even though we follow Jesus with glaring failures, in the end, because of His mercy, we too will be gathered to our fathers!

Remember the glaring failure of Aaron & Moses: (How many times do we have to forgive...7 times?!)

ⁱ Guthrie, Nancy (2012-08-31). The Lamb of God (A 10-week Bible Study): Seeing Jesus in Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy (Seeing Jesus in the Old Testament) (p. 24). Crossway. Kindle Edition.

In the Wilderness: The Book of Numbers

[#24 in Series] (Numbers 15–25) *Forty Years in the Wilderness: Part 9*

Where Mercy Begins – Numbers 20

Sermon Outline – October 4, 2015

Children's Sermon: God of Mercy

❖ Please Forgive Me!

Matthew 18:21–22

²¹ Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?”

²² Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

❖ The Story of the Unmerciful Servant...

Big Picture: Mercy & Deliverance

From Kadesh to the Plains of Moab (20:1-22:1)

1. The Death of Miriam (1)

¹ And the people of Israel, the whole congregation, came into the wilderness of Zin in the first month, and the people stayed in Kadesh. And *Miriam died there and was buried there.*

2. The Waters of Meribah (2-13)

3. Edom Refuses Israel Passage (14-21)

4. The Death of Aaron (22-29)

Numbers 22:1 (Cf. Deut. 34 – Death of Moses)

Then the people of Israel set out and camped in the plains of Moab beyond the Jordan at Jericho.

Map from ESV Study Bible



Notes:

Chapter 20: Judgment & Mercy

Key Idea

God is Just & Merciful.

What is Justice?

What is Mercy?

Romans 11:32 (HCSB)

For God has imprisoned all in disobedience, so that He may have mercy on all.

What do you think this verse means?

Quarreling About Water Again? (2-13)**Exodus 17:2–7** (ESV)

² Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” And Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?” ³ But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?” ⁴ So Moses cried to the Lord, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” ⁵ And the Lord said to Moses, “Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and **take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile**, and go. ⁶ Behold, **I will stand before you there on the rock** at Horeb, and **you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.**” (1 Corinthians 10:4) And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ And he called the name of the place Massah (testing) and Meribah (quarreling)…”

Same Test... Same Failure...

(5b) “...It is no place for grain or figs or vines or pomegranates, and there is no water to drink.”

God's Surprising Response

⁸ “**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.” ⁹ And Moses took the staff from before the Lord, **as he commanded him.**

The Rebellion of Moses & Aaron

¹⁰ 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?**” ¹¹ 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**. ¹² 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.*”

In what way did they not believe God?

In what way did they not represent God as Holy?

Why was God giving water to Israel?

Eleazar Made High Priest on Mt. Hor

The Death of Aaron: Judgment & Mercy (22-29)

²³ And the Lord said to Moses and Aaron... ²⁴ “**Let Aaron be gathered to his people**, for he shall not enter the land that I have given to the people of Israel, **because you rebelled against my command at the waters of Meribah.**

(Cf. Gen. 25:8; 25:17; 35:29; 49:33; Deut. 32:50)

Mark 12:26–27

²⁶ And as for the dead being raised, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the passage about the bush, how God spoke to him, saying, ‘I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob?’ ²⁷ **He is not God of the dead, but of the living.** You are quite wrong.”