



## “Intimacy with God”

Knowing Him  
Exodus 17:1-7

Overcoming our tendency to:

### I. Demand - “Why chide ye with me” (vs. 1-2)

*Insisting God :*

- A. **Provide** – “Give us water”
- B. **Please** – “that we may drink”
- C. **Prove** – “ye tempt the LORD”

### II. Diminish - “brought us up out of Egypt...to kill us” (vs. 3-5)

*Insulting God’s:*

- A. **Lucidity** – “And the people thirsted there for water”
- B. **Leaders** – “the people murmured against Moses ”
- C. **Legacy** – “thy rod wherewith thou smotest the river”

### III. Doubt - “I will stand before thee there upon the rock” (vs. 6-7)

*Incredulous concerning God’s:*

- A. **Preservation** – “that the people may drink”
- B. **Promises** - “they tempted the LORD”
- C. **Presence** - “Is the LORD among us, or not?”

## Sentence Sermon:

“Spiritual victories flow from our intimacy with God.”

## Additional Verses

- *I Corinthians 10:4*
- *Numbers 20:7-12*
- *Romans 8:28*
- *James 1:12-15*
- *Psalms 46:1*
- *Exodus 7:20*
- *Numbers 33:12-14*
- *Psalms 78:15-16; 105:41; 114:8*
- *Isaiah 48:21*
- *Matthew 4:7*

## Moses calls on the LORD

- *Exodus 15:25; 32:30*
- *Numbers 11:1-2; 12:13; 14:13*

## Questions to Ponder:

1. What are the key words or phrases in this passage?
2. Who is the central character of the passage?
3. Why did the children of Israel face the lack of water again?
4. Why was their chiding with Moses “tempting the LORD?”
5. How serious was the lack of water? Explain.
6. What does verse 3 reveal about Israel’s heart and attitude?
7. Why does God instruct Moses to take with him the elders?
8. Is it wrong to tempt the LORD? Why or Why not?
9. When are you most likely to complain about your situation?
10. How is your intimacy with the Lord today?

11. What will you do this week to increase your level of intimacy with God?

## Introduction:

## Intimacy:

2. a close, familiar, and usually affectionate or loving personal relationship with another person or group.
3. a close association with or detailed knowledge or deep understanding of a place, subject, period of history, etc.
4. an act or expression serving as a token of familiarity, affection, or the like:

I Being a Christian is about the destination but living the Christian Life is about the Journey.....Learning to trust God in difficult situations.

This passage has some parallels with the temptation of Christ....Jesus was shown to be unbreakable and totally in sync with God. Needless to say that because of His intimacy with the Father, He did not falter.

Today's passage finds God's people on their way to Mt. Sinai being led by the cloud and pillar of God. They are being led into difficult situations and having their faith tested whether they will obey and trust the LORD.

God had already proven He could provide water for them but they are still unsure if they will remain devoted to Him

when things get hard. Are their hearts with God or are they still back in Egypt?

## V. 1

- **And all the congregation of the children of Israel = Is it possible that no one has died since leaving Egypt....further emphasis that their fears were unfounded**
- **According to the commandment of the Lord =**
- **There was no water for the people to drink =**

## V. 2

- **The people did chide with Moses =**
- **Give us water that we may drink = If there was no water....where did they expect Moses to get some? Evidently they didn't care what he had to do...just do something....maybe they were just mocking Moses' faith that God would certainly supply**
- **Why chide ye with me = Your problem is not with Moses but with God...happens a lot with discontented people**
- **Wherefore do ye tempt the Lord = Same Word used before in 15:25 and 16:4 of God testing or proving the faith of the children of**

Israel....Now they want to turn it around and “test” God

- **Corrie Ten Boom** “ Don’t bother to give God instruction, just report for duty.”

### V. 3

- **The people thirsted there for water = Physical need ....nothing wrong with that**
- **The people murmured against Moses= Spiritual need ....indication of something wrong with their faith....**
- **Wherefore this thou has brought us up out of Egypt =**
- **To kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst =**

### V. 4

- **Moses cried unto the LORD =**
- **What shall I do unto these people =**
- **They be almost ready to stone me =**

### V. 5

- **Go on before the people =**
- **Take with thee of the elders =**

- **Thy rod wherewith thou smotest the river = not that you parted the sea but simply you smote the river**

### V. 6

- Behold =
- I will stand before thee =
- There upon the rock in Horeb = Horeb meaning “the desolate place”
- Thou shalt smite the rock = the rock represents Jesus
  - Numbers 20:7-12 – tells of another time of thirst (nearly 40 yrs later...probably complained the whole time in between) and how Moses was told that time to speak to the Rock....The clear teaching is that Jesus was crucified (struck) once for all people for all time. Now we simply need to speak or ask and we shall receive by faith. Jesus does not need to be placed again on the Cross.....**GOSPEL.**
- There shall come water out of it = The water is the new life freely given because Jesus was struck for our sins...perhaps more specifically representing the Holy Spirit poured out with power for the New Life.

- That the people may drink =
- And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel =

## V. 7

- **He called the name of the place Masah = meaning “testing” or “tempting”**
- **and Meribah = meaning “chiding or strife”**
  - **How would the labeling of our lives be ??? Times of Testing....Times of Quarrelling ?**
- **Because of the chiding of the children =**
- **Because they tempted the LORD =**
- **Saying, Is the LORD among us or not?**  
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