

David Lien, November 12, 2017

Water from the Rock
Exodus 17:1-7

I. Introduction: Thirst

Illustration: After making weight from YFL.

Illustration: Imagine your thirstiest moment in life. Now imagine if you couldn't quench that.

Thirst is a **need**:

1. Immediate
2. Intense
3. All-consuming

Thirst is a **longing** (borrowing from *Dorothy Sayers*):

1. The Romantic Longing—Dante, Orpheus
2. The Pilgrim's Longing—Odysseus
3. The Saint's Longing—Ps. 27:4

Where is your thirst? —for ideal relationship, for security, for a place, for beauty, for meaning?

What will quench our thirst? What will satisfy us in the wilderness and bring us to the promise?

II. Sermon

Context: Burning Bush, Plagues, Passover, Red Sea, Pillars of Cloud and Fire, Marah, Manna

1. The Wilderness (v.1-4)

A. The wilderness is a place of transition— “by the commandment of the LORD”

New leader, New work, New direction, New difficulties, New depths of understanding God

B. The wilderness is a place of tribulation

- i. Discomfort (sunburn, chapped lips, sore feet, sleeping on ground)
- ii. Delay—40 years (or 40 days with faith—Jesus)
- iii. Attack (**Amalek**—v.8)
- iv. Need—hunger (manna), thirst (water)
- v. Anger— “grumble, quarrel, stone”
- vi. Doubts— “why did you bring us out of Egypt to kill us?”

Is the LORD among us or not? (look around and see Him!)

- vii. Suffering—plagues, judgments

viii. Nostalgia—better in Egypt

C. The wilderness is a place of testing—of the heart: **where is your focus?**

- On obstacles in your way?
- On God in your midst? ==pillar of cloud and fire
 - In the past: choice, redemption, miracles, salvation
 - In the present: privilege, nearness to God, power, honor, manna
 - In the future: hope, home, legacy

D. 4 Choices in the Wilderness

- Medicate—drugs, entertainment, hobbies, achievements
- Grumble—quarrel with God and anyone else in charge
- Despair—give up, bail, hide
- Lie to yourself— “it’s not bad.” “The sun will come out tomorrow.”
- Cry to the LORD for water (v.4)

2. The Water (v.5-7)

- i. The Water Came to Sinners—“Meribah, Massah”
- ii. The Water Came from God— “I will stand **on the Rock**”
- iii. The Water Came through Judgment— “**strike** the Rock,” “Horeb”
- iv. The Water Came out Abundantly— “pass on before the people”
- v. The Water Came to Satisfy Thirst— “the people shall drink”
- vi. The Water Will Come to the Whole World

Zech. 14:8, Ezek. 47:1, Rev. 22:1-2

3. The One It Points To—1 Cor. 10:1-4; Jn. 19:34

Praise the Rock and the Water, once-struck so that we could drink forever!

III. How do I get this living water?

1. Speak, Don’t Smite—Num. 20:8, 10-11

2. Ask and Receive—Jn. 4:10, 13-14

3. Believe and Unblock—Jn. 7:37-39

- God didn’t supply a *trickle* in the wilderness to keep them stumbling onward, but *streams* to satisfy them and set their hearts at rest.
- Compare the poverty of your spiritual experience to the abundance God offers.

4. Go to the Well Each Day

- The fountain is a flowing relationship of love that is easily choked by sin, distraction, ambition, disappointment, and even prosperity!
- The fountain is open, no matter what yesterday held

5. Flow Outward!!—A fountain cannot stay pent-up

- Read, meditate, pray, serve the poor, tithe, evangelize, disciple, mentor