

The Rock!

Purpose: to remind the listeners who find themselves in “the wilderness” not to complain, but to follow the leaders that God has given and to look to the Rock (Jesus) for help.

What is the difference between a pebble, a stone and a Rock? Is there a difference?

Pebble –

- A small stone made smooth and round by the action of water or sand.

Stone –

- An English and imperial unit of weight now equal to 14 pounds
- A hard seed in a cherry, plum, peach, and some other fruits.
- Hard solid non-metallic mineral matter of which rock is made, especially as a building material.

Rock –

- The solid mineral material forming part of the surface of the earth and other similar planets, exposed on the surface or underlying the soil or oceans.
- Used to refer to someone or something that is extremely strong, reliable, or hard.

Where am I going with this?

After the children of Israel were delivered from slavery in Egypt they began their new journey with the LORD.

- First they travelled 3 days into the wilderness, God led them to a place where there was no water and they complained to Moses
- He gave them water, and then let them to a place called Elim, where they were refreshed and renewed.
- Next He led them to another place where they lacked food, and once again they complained.
- God’s response was to give them quails for meat and manna from heaven each day for bread.

What happens next? Exodus 17:1-7

God leads them to a new place called Rephidim (rests or resting place)

- There was no water there (again)
- The people contended with Moses (again)
- This time they were ready to stone him!

God tells Moses something different this time:

- Go before the people with some of the elders of Israel
- Take your rod with which you struck the river
- Strike the rock, and water will come out of it.

The place ended up with two names:

- Massah – temptation
- Meribah – strife/contention

Here are a few things to remember:

God led them to a place where there was no water

- God did it!
- It was a resting place – they were supposed to learn to rest in the LORD

The people complained against Moses

- You can always tell what people are really like when put under pressure
- We learn about ourselves when put under pressure

God used His leader to meet the needs of the people

- The rod was a rod of authority
- This established Moses once again as God's servant – only Moses could do this

The rock was Jesus!

Deu 32:4 - *He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He.*

Deu 32:30 - *How could one chase a thousand, And two put ten thousand to flight, Unless their Rock had sold them, And the LORD had surrendered them?*

Psa 18:46 - *The LORD lives! Blessed be my Rock! Let the God of my salvation be exalted.*

Isa 44:8 - *Do not fear, nor be afraid; Have I not told you from that time, and declared it? You are My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed there is no other Rock; I know not one.' "*

1Co 10:1 - *Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea,*

1Co 10:2 - *all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,*

1Co 10:3 - *all ate the same spiritual food,*

1Co 10:4 - *and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.*

Jesus is the Rock!

- Jesus was struck (wounded, bruised, etc.)
- Jesus gives water (sustains, refreshes, etc.)

So, when you find yourself in a difficult situation (wilderness) and you are tempted to complain, or you seem to lose faith:

- Remember that (unless it is your fault) God led you there!
- Remember not to complain!
- Remember to follow the leaders that God had given you!
- Remember to look to Jesus, the Rock that will help you!