

Text: Exodus 17:1-7 Water From the Rock

Wherever we go people have their bottles of **water!**

Water is everywhere, with names, like Evian and Perrier; Mountain Spring, Ice Mountain and Crystal Geysir. Names designed to invoke images of **refreshment, coolness, and peacefulness.**

The cases and cases of bottles and bottles of water became **the water of life** for the **drought** stricken. Also, for the **hurricane** victims for whom there was and is water, water, everywhere, but not a drop to drink.

Water, or the **lack** of it sometimes comes with a **destructive** force, and sometimes with a **high cost.**

1. The problem

We are not thinking today of an abundance of water, but the **lack** of it!

In our **scripture** passage we catch up with the **Hebrews** out in the wilderness on an **Exodus** from slavery in **Egypt** to a **Promised Land.** A land, they were told, that was overflowing with milk and honey.

But at the moment what they needed was water. *...there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarrelled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink."...and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children...? So, Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with these people?"*

- At the beginning of the Exodus from Egypt, these same people were filled with joy and excitement. But after years of wandering, they began wondering if they really could "get there from here."
- They had **needs** and they wanted their needs **met.**
- And most certainly when one of those needs was for water, the situation became urgent.
- The only one they could go to for meeting their needs was **Moses.** And the only one that Moses could go to was **God: What am I going to do with these people?**

Sometimes we ask the same question: What am I going to do with these people?

- What am I going to do with the needs of this **neighbourhood?** What am I going to do with the needs of this **city?**
- With the needs of drought victims? What am I going to do with those who need jobs; with those who need comfort; with those seeking sanctuary and those whose safety is threatened; with those who are poor and with those who are poor in spirit?

What am I going to do with these people, with so many needs?

What am I going to do? Moses pleaded to God.

2. The solution

Give us water to drink. **The water of life.**

In the wilderness, surrounded by thirsty people, **Moses had no where to go but to the Lord.** He prayed, *"What am I going to do...?"*

And his prayer was heard. God answered, "Go on ahead of the people (to the rock at Horeb)...take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile...strike the rock, and water will come out of it."

- **In order for the miracle to happen, Moses had to go to the Lord.**
- He had to **listen** and then he had to **do** something. He had to find the rock and he had to strike the rock.
- He couldn't just wait around and pray for rain. He had to find the **rock.**

3. The challenge

- **We have to find the rock. We have to find the resources to bring the water of life to the people who come to this church saying, "Give us.."**
- Sometimes it is you or me asking, seeking, pleading, and needing. Sometimes we are **Moses.**

John 4:13 Jesus answered, *"Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 14but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."*

When Jesus spoke these words, he was stating that he was **the Anointed One of God who was to bring in the new age.**

- In the prophetic vision of the age to come, the age of God, the promise was: *"They shall not hunger or thirst" (Isa.49:10).*
- It was with God and none other that the living fountain of the all-quenching water existed. *"With thee is the fountain of life,"* the Psalmist had cried (**Ps.36:9**).
- It is from the very throne of **God** that the river of life is to flow (**Rev.22:1**).

At the heart of all this there is the fundamental truth that in the human heart there is a thirst for something that only Jesus Christ can satisfy.

We strike the rock. But there is water. Enough to satisfy the thirst.