

AN UNFAILING RESOURCE

Exodus 17:3-7

Friday, March 2, 2018, 15th Day of Lent

Verse 6, Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.

The Israelites had a hard time learning their lessons, mostly to trust God. As typical of their behavior, we find them grumbling, complaining, and quarreling in today's scripture passage. They have traveled from the Desert of Sin and camped in Rephidim only to find themselves without water again. In their thirst they grumble and complain against Moses. And they put the Lord to the test as well by asking, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

The rock that Moses struck to bring forth water for the Israelites is like Jesus Christ who was smitten for us on the cross, "...for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ." (I Corinthians 10:4), and the water is the Holy Spirit whose coming was made possible by Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension to heaven.

The Israelites had an unfailing resource, yet they chose to grumble, complain and quarrel, making matters worse instead of relying upon God, trusting in Him, to make things better. They had hardened their hearts to the point that they could not submit to Him. They complained about water at the beginning of their journey from Egypt and 40 years later they were still complaining.

I am sure all of us have had our times of grumbling, complaining, and quarreling, failing to recognize our unfailing resource. How many places on our journey of life ought to be named "Massah and Meribah" or "Testing and Quarreling"? How well are you relying on this unfailing resource, the Lord, instead of testing and grumbling?

Let us pray: Lord, you are our unfailing resource, providing for us in our times of need. We thank you for your willingness to be the rock smitten for us on the cross. Amen.

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