

so in the sight of the elders of Israel. Isn't that utter foolishness: *Strike the rock and water will come out!* If Moses did it – *and nothing happened*, he would be mocked and probably killed! Nevertheless, Moses had complete confidence in the Lord; therefore, ♦he did his part, ♦the Lord kept His promise, and ♦the people drank! We should NEVER do God's Word to be saved, but we should ALWAYS do God's Word – without grumbling – *because we are saved!*

- c. Let us remember our sins so that we do not continue in them – ⁷ **He named the place Massah [test/tempt] and Meribah [quarrel/argue] because of the quarrel of the sons of Israel, and because they tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us, or not?"** Jesus is God in the flesh – *the Promised Savior*; He has done a finished work for our salvation! *By grace through faith in Him as our Savior*, our sins have been removed! Therefore, *we should never remember our sins AND WORRY*; however, we should remember them *SO THAT WE LEARN FROM THEM AND DO NOT CONTINUE IN THEM!* Do you have ♦a scar on your body, ♦a dent in your car, or ♦a pink slip from your employer, *which points to a particular sin*? Then remember and learn, *but also be at peace in Jesus!*

Conclusion: Now, *having learned from the people of Israel*,
→let us not grumble, →let us fully trust in the Lord, and
→let us be patient! He is faithful; He will provide – *when the time is right!* And all God's people said: *Amen!*

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"Don't Grumble, Be Patient!"

Based on Exodus 17:1-7 NAU

3rd Sunday in Lent – 2011

March 27 → 8:00 & 10:45

Introduction: Dear friends: →Is the Triune God *almighty in power*? →Does He *fully know* of our various situations? →Will He *certainly provide* according to our needs? *Yes! Yes! And yes!* Therefore, we should not grumble or complain; instead, *let us trust in the Lord and be patient!*

Today we find ourselves in the book of Exodus:

- Chapter 13 – God led the Israelites out of Egypt – *where they had been enslaved for 400 years.*
- Chapter 14 – God parted the Red Sea – *to save the Israelites from being slaughtered by Pharaoh's army.*
- Chapter 15 – A song of praise – *to the Lord.*
- Chapter 16 – God provided the people with manna – *bread from heaven to nourish their bodies.*

Nevertheless, ***even after all of those awesome, powerful, miraculous actions***, we come to chapter 17 in which the people strongly went against Moses – *even the Lord Himself!* Now we take a closer look at the text so that we might learn **NOT to grumble BUT to be patient** – as we TRUST IN THE LORD to provide whatever we need!

1. **The People were Focused on Temporary Things:**

- a. **No water** – ¹ **Then all the congregation of the sons of Israel journeyed by stages from the wilderness of Sin, according to the command of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, and there was no water for the people to drink.** They journeyed – *possibly about 30 miles* – from Sin to Rephidim,¹ *so they certainly needed water!* Water is a very basic bodily need; *we cannot live very long without it!* ✦ Did God know about their need? *By all means!* ✦ Does God know about all of our needs? *Certainly!* Nevertheless:
- b. **Quarreling and testing** – ² **Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water that we may drink.” And Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?”** Moses was *God’s appointed leader*; therefore, *to argue with Moses was to argue with or test the Lord!* Even Jesus said to the devil: ^{NAS} **Matthew 4:7** *...it is written, “You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.”* Why not? *To test God is to NOT FEAR GOD!* Jesus said: ^{NAU} **Matthew 10:28** *“...fear [God] who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”* *The Almighty God deserves ALL of our respect and trust!*
- c. **Grumbling; no trust in God** – ³ **But the people thirsted there for water; and they grumbled against Moses and said, “Why, now, have you brought us up from Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?”** Again, as they spoke against Moses, *they spoke against God*; the same God who ✦ freed them, ✦ saved them, and ✦ fed them; the same

God who ✦ loved them, ✦ knew their needs, and ✦ would provide – *according to His timing, not theirs!* Since grumbling shows a lack of *respect for and trust in* the almighty God, *let us ✦ honor Him, ✦ trust in Him, and ✦ patiently wait on Him to provide our needs!*

2. **Moses turned to the Lord:** ⁴ **So Moses cried out to the LORD, saying, “What shall I do to this people? A little more and they will stone me.”** Imagine how overwhelmed Moses felt; *he was God’s appointed leader of approximately 3 million people* – about 10 times the population of the city of Cleveland! *They were so thirsty that Moses felt like his life was in serious danger*, so he cried out to the Lord! We have that same privilege to pray – 24/7 – *through our Lord Jesus Christ* (1Timothy 2:5)!

3. **The Lord Provided through Moses:**

- a. **Encouraging confidence** – ⁵ **Then the LORD said to Moses, “Pass before the people and take with you some of the elders of Israel; and take in your hand your staff with which you struck the Nile, and go.”** The Lord didn’t say: *Sneak away, find water, and report back.* Instead, the Lord wanted the people to see Moses with some of the elders and his staff – *the same one through which God had worked to turn the Nile into blood.* The Lord was *encouraging the people* to be confident in the leader He had appointed.
- b. **Let us TRUST in the word of the Lord** – ⁶ **“Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink.”** And Moses did

¹ <http://www.bible.ca/archeology/maps-bible-archeology-exodus-route-overview.jpg>