

STRIKE THE ROCK

Exodus 17:1-7

Calvary Church of Pacific Palisades
June 26, 2011 ♦ Sunday Morning Worship

Intro ...

Cast Away ... Chuck Noland ... top engineer for FedEx. South Pacific, a violent storm company jet causing it to slam into the ocean. Noland survived everyone else aboard was lost. yellow life raft, he rides out the raging storm and washes up on a small deserted island. For the next four years he struggles to survive.

The day after Noland first set foot on the island, the only concern greater than his fear was his desperate need for water. He was dangerously thirsty. After he discovers coconuts falling from the trees, Noland frantically attempts to open one. He repeatedly throws a coconut against a boulder, but the hard shell is unmarked. Using all his strength, he pounds the coconut with a rock but without success. He tries to drill a hole into one and then flies into a fury when he still cannot access the juice locked inside. Eventually he employs a sharp rock as an axe and is able to cut into and remove the outer husk. Left with the hard shell, he finally breaks it open only to watch as most of the milky juice spill out on the ground. Noland lifts up a fragment of the shell and drains the few remaining drops of liquid into his mouth.

Do you know what it must be like to be that thirsty? Ill. Jack in PICU. Sponge of water. THIRST
Whatever you thirsty for; Love, healing, belonging, security ... only one source that will satisfy.
Jesus Christ the rock ... the one who pours forth living water.

Please open your Bibles to Exodus 17. Page 52.

1 Corinthians 10:1-4 (NIV84) For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. ²They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. ³They all ate the same spiritual food ⁴and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ.

Christ in the Exodus ... providing living water for thirsty travelers.

Exodus 17:1-7 (NIV84) *Water From the Rock*

17 *The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²So they quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink."*

THIRST IS A CONTINUAL EXPERIENCE WHEN TRAVELING IN THE DESERT. CAN YOU IMAGINE WHAT MOSES MUST HAVE FELT LIKE? HERE HE WAS TRYING TO DELIVER THEM AND THEY ARE FIGHTING HIM ALL THE WAY. MIRACLE AFTER MIRACLE, NOTHING WAS GOOD ENOUGH. SOUND FAMILIAR?

V. 2 Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the LORD to the test?" QUARREL STRONGER THAN MURMUR

³But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?" ⁴Then Moses cried out to the LORD, "What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me."

STONING WOULD BE THE FINAL ACT OF REJECTION OF HIS LEADERSHIP. GOD HAD GIVEN THEM A LEADER AND THEY DIDN'T LIKE GOD'S CHOICE ... JUST AS THOSE IN THE 1ST CENTURY DID TO STEPHEN, AND WERE READY TO DO TO PAUL AND JESUS.

⁵The LORD answered Moses, "Walk on ahead of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will stand there before you by the rock at

Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink.” So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel.⁷ And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the LORD saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?” NAMES TEST, QUARREL, TRUST

WHAT IN THE WORLD DOES THIS STORY HAVE TO DO WITH ME? Thirsty?

1a. When you are dying of thirst ... COME to the rock.

The only source of satisfaction ... nothing else can quench thirst. Jesus offers living water.

Ill. Woman at well, thirsty. JOHN 4. JESUS still offering living water. DAILY.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO COME ... 1b. Stop complaining and trust in God.

#1 way to Quench the Holy Spirit. Critical and complaining, grumbling. Some think it's spiritual gift.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-19 (NIV84) ¹⁶ Be joyful always; ¹⁷ pray continually; ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. ¹⁹ Do not put out the Spirit's fire;

Ill. just think about the things we complain about ... Feb 2009 woman calls 911 3 x over McNuggets.

Jesus Christ is the spiritual rock that is the source of continual renewal of strength whereby we live the Christian life.

2a. When you are desperate ... STAND on the rock.

The nature of desperation. Know you cannot help yourself.

Ill. Blessed be the name ... Job – THE ONLY PLACE WE CAN GO, ONLY ONE TO TURN TO.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO STAND ... 2b. Stop self-pity and cry out to God.

ASK THE QUESTION. Is God with me or not? Is God for me or against me?

MAKE A DECISION. Bring it to God in prayer.

Philippians 4:4-7 (NIV84) ⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

No longer a victim (some choose to be victims all life). Instead, a victor through prayer.

Dying ... COME. Desperate ... STAND.

3a. When you don't know what to do ... STRIKE the rock.

How? Don't have a staff. Not about a staff. It's about obedience. TAKE ACTION ...

Ill. John and Susannah Wesley house was on fire, 12 CHILDREN.

Pray in faith believing. Not exclusive of taking action. Ill. Glenda who prayed, but refused treatment.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO STAND ... 3b. Stop acting out ... act in obedience. Do what God commands.

Instead of hoarding, Give generously. Ill. three times the amount they had agreed on

Instead of being served (consumer), Serve. Ill. DOYL, JAKE, BRANDON are serving in the nursery.

Instead of holding grudges, Forgive when the last thing you want to do is forgive. Ill. Not about you.

Not just obedient, but obeying with the right motive.

Moses struck the rock, not once but twice. 2nd time he was commanded to speak to it, not strike it.

Numbers 20:1-12 ... end of the 40 years wandering.

Conclusion:

Jesus is the rock. ONLY HE CAN quench your thirst.

Will you come to the rock ... will you turn to God and trust in Him?

Will you stand on the rock ... will you pray in faith believing God will provide?

Will you strike the rock ... will you act in obedience to receive God's blessing?

In February 2009, a 27-year-old woman from Fort Pierce, Florida, walked into a McDonald's restaurant and ordered a 10-piece McNuggets meal. You know how it is when you're hungry and you have a taste for something particular. Your imagination starts working and you can almost taste those McNuggets now. Well, that's when things got really tough for this hungry woman. The person behind the counter took the order and received payment. The McDonald's employee then discovered that they were out of those bite-sized, warm, tasty McNuggets. The employee told the customer that the restaurant had run out of McNuggets, and she would have to get something else from the menu. The customer asked for her money back. The employee said all sales are final, and she could have a larger priced item from the menu if she wanted. The customer got angry. She wanted McNuggets—not a Big Mac, not a McRib, not a Quarter Pounder. She was angry, this was clearly an emergency, and she knew what to do in an emergency: she took out her cell phone and called 911 to complain. Apparently the 911 workers didn't take her seriously, because the McNuggets-loving woman called 911 three times to get help! She never got her McNuggets that night, but she did later get a ticket from police for misusing 911. Anger twists our perspective. It skews our judgment. Anger makes small things big and big things small. When we're angry, having to eat a burger instead of McNuggets is a disaster, and calling 911 is not a big deal.

Numbers 20:1–13 (NIV84) *Water From the Rock* **20** In the first month the whole Israelite community arrived at the Desert of Zin, and they stayed at Kadesh. There Miriam died and was buried.

² Now there was no water for the community, and the people gathered in opposition to Moses and Aaron. ³ They quarreled with Moses and said, “If only we had died when our brothers fell dead before the LORD! ⁴ Why did you bring the LORD’s community into this desert, that we and our livestock should die here? ⁵ Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to this terrible place? It has no grain or figs, grapevines or pomegranates. And there is no water to drink!”

⁶ Moses and Aaron went from the assembly to the entrance to the Tent of Meeting and fell facedown, and the glory of the LORD appeared to them. ⁷ The LORD said to Moses, ⁸ “Take the staff, and you and your brother Aaron gather the assembly together. Speak to that rock before their eyes and it will pour out its water. You will bring water out of the rock for the community so they and their livestock can drink.”

⁹ So Moses took the staff from the LORD’s presence, just as he commanded him. ¹⁰ He and Aaron gathered the assembly together in front of the rock and Moses said to them, “Listen, you rebels, must we bring you water out of this rock?” ¹¹ Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with his staff. Water gushed out, and the community and their livestock drank.

¹² But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, “Because you did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them.”

¹³ These were the waters of Meribah, where the Israelites quarreled with the LORD and where he showed himself holy among them.