

Rocky II

Introduction

I have told you guys before that I really struggled with arrogance in my life and in my early walk with God. I am completely ashamed of the person that I used to be. I made a lot of people around me miserable and left dozens belittled in my wake.

When I surrendered my life to Christ, I still had a lot of work to do in that area. Most of us come to Christ fully enflamed in our sins. I thought that I could add Christ to my list of admirers and remain in control without surrendering everything.

I thought that I was doing pretty good at this Christian thing. Until one day my mentor decided to confront me. Well he told me we had to stop meeting because just seeing me made him nauseous. One day he dressed me down to almost nothing and it was painful....the truth usually is...but it was life changing and necessary.

He told me that I was trying to take credit for what God had done in my life. That on my own I had really accomplished nothing...Give examples.

Today we explore the life of Moses. There was a moment in his life where he told God to stand down and he would put himself on the throne of his life....He has a lot to teach us today.

Do you ever read the Bible and Wonder what in the world God is doing? Something happens in the Bible and God's response seems extreme? You want God to be loving and understanding but in these instances he seems like an intense stickler for the rules

We are going to look at one of those stories today....a story that is not often preached about. It is an odd moment in Moses' life....that has huge consequences.

Let me show it to you.....and then we will go back and learn a bit about Moses....and hopefully ourselves

Numbers 20:2–5 (ESV) — 2 Now there was no water for the congregation. And they assembled themselves together against Moses and against Aaron. 3 And the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Would that we had perished when our brothers perished before the LORD! 4 Why have you brought the assembly of the LORD into this wilderness, that we should die here, both we and our cattle? 5 And why have you made us come up out of Egypt to bring us to this evil place? It is no place for grain or figs or vines or pomegranates, and there is no water to drink."

Numbers 20:6–9 (ESV) — 6 Then Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly to the entrance of the tent of meeting and fell on their faces. And the glory of the LORD appeared to them, 7 and the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 8 "Take the staff, and assemble the congregation, you and Aaron your brother, and tell the rock before their eyes to yield its water. So you shall bring water out of the rock for them and give drink to the congregation and their cattle." 9 And Moses took the staff from before the LORD, as he commanded him.

Numbers 20:10–13 (ESV) — 10 Then Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock, and he said to them, "Hear now, you rebels: shall we bring water for you out of this rock?" 11 And Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock with his staff twice, and water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their livestock.

12 And the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not believe in me, to uphold me as holy in the eyes of the people of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land that I have given them." 13 These are the waters of Meribah, where the people of Israel quarreled with the LORD, and through them he showed himself holy.

Wait a minute....

Moses put up with all sorts of stuff to get to the Promised Land He had to deal with God who forced him to be a messenger even though speaking was not his strong suit He had a family that didn't always believe in Him He had to deal with Israelites in slavery who doubted him

He had to deal with Pharaoh who wouldn't listen He had to wander in the wilderness with people who took whining to an art level Everything he did....he did with one goal.....To see the People of God reach and celebrate in the Promised Land of God And now....because he struck a rock....No Trip for You!

What?!!! God what are you doing? This is Moses.....Moses....He has done everything you asked.....He has led the people....many of whom he probably wanted to strangle.....and he makes one mistake.....one little mistake....and he is out? God are you serious?

Numbers 20:10–13 (ESV) — 12 And the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not believe in me, to uphold me as holy in the eyes of the people of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land that I have given them."

This kind of thing God is not helping your street cred. Just when people start to think that you are loving and caring and forgiving.....you go off the rails.....God I think you have a serious anger problem.

Do you remember when I said that when God's Word doesn't make sense....often the problem is with us.....It is not that God is wrong.....but rather we have a limited ability to see the whole picture. When you get to these kinds of passages in the Bible, you are best by saying, God did it so there is a really great reason...I need to go find it. Holy Spirit show me what I am not seeing.

The problem is that we just don't understand all that God is doing. But that doesn't mean that He will not reveal the reason to us if we ask with humility and a sincere desire to understand the heart of God. Let's look at the life of Moses leading up to the moment and see if we can begin to put some pieces together.

Moses

Moses was born as part of the Tribe of Levi....one of the 12 sons of Israel The Levites were set apart to be the Priests of God and to manage the temple Both Moses and his brother Aaron were of the priestly clan of Levites.

Last week we learned that after Joseph, the Jewish people multiplied incredibly while in Egypt. And the Egyptians began to get nervous about their numbers. At the time of Moses' birth, Pharaoh had ordered that all male children be put to death at birth by the midwives.

If you remember the story from the Movie the Ten Commandments....or perhaps from the Bible..... Moses is born and put in a basket and floated down the Nile to keep him from being slaughtered.

Pharaoh's daughter finds him and takes him into Pharaoh's palace and raises him. His mother become his nurse maid but Moses grows up as Egyptian and with all the benefits of royalty. He is given a great education and is separated from the slavery that oppresses the Hebrew people

They didn't have online DNA or genealogy searches but he learns that he is actually Hebrew. He ends up killing an Egyptian and hiding his body in order to protect a Hebrew. When this murder is discovered (Messed up people doing messed up things) he flees to Midian to escape punishment.

Moses lived 40 years under Pharaoh.....40 years running in Midian....and 40 years wandering in the desert. At age 80 Moses meets God in a burning bush and God tells him that He (God) is going to save his children and He wants Moses to lead them out of Egypt to the Promised Land.

Moses reluctantly agrees after a lot of coaxing and compromising. He returns to Egypt.....Stares down Pharaoh through 10 plagues Culminating in Passover, The Exodus, the Splitting of the Red Sea, being led with cloud by day and fire by night, Manna from heaven, Up on Mount Sinai for the ten commandments....Then leading them through the wilderness, Building the ark of the covenant, the tent of meeting, and establishing the Feasts of the Lord.

Lets go to one of those moments.....They have just passed through the Red Sea.....God has just provided Manna from heaven for food. The people have seen two incredible miracles of God.

Exodus 17:1–2 (ESV) — 1 All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. 2 Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” And Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?”

MAP OF WILDERNESS

Exodus 17:3–4 (ESV) — 3 But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and

our children and our livestock with thirst?" 4 So Moses cried to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me."

Exodus 17:5–6 (ESV) — 5 And the LORD said to Moses, "Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. 6 Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink." And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.

Note a few key points that will become relevant later. God said....I will stand before you on the Rock at Horeb. You will do this with your elders. You strike the rock once with the staff I have given to you....and presto.... fresh water from the rock.

Exodus 17:7 (ESV) — 7 And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

Massah meaning testing and Merbah meaning quarreling. God would reference this moment later in Scripture

Deuteronomy 6:16: You shall not tempt the LORD your God as you tempted Him in Massah • Deuteronomy 9:22: at ... Massah ... you provoked the LORD to wrath

Deuteronomy 33:8: Your holy one, Whom You tested at Massah, and with whom You contended at the waters of Meribah

Why was God so upset in this moment? Look at how they responded to the miracles that they had seen.

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Is the Lord among us or not? Do you remember where God was?

Exodus 17:6 (ESV) — 6 Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink." And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.

10 Plagues including the passover....given all the wealth from Egypt.....split the Red Sea.....Manna from heaven....Water from a Rock.....Lord are you among us or not?

Have you been there? I have.....God doing miracles all around me....but the only thing I care about is my immediate need and the next miracle of God.

They continue wandering through the Desert....

Moses establishes the tent of meeting....the ark of the covenant.....the consecration of the priests and all the temple and its ornaments. God gives him the Ten Commandments. He

establishes the 7 Feasts of the Lord. The First Passover Celebration.....God's presence inhabits the temple.

They leave Sinai to keep wandering....People complain about meat---God dumps a quail bomb on them....they get sick of meat. Moses sister and brother turn against him.... They get to the edge of the Promised Land.....Spies are sent out....they freak....don't trust God.

Moses begs God to not give up on them A group decide to go into the promised land on their own and are instantly slaughtered. They are round tripped from the Promised land into the Wilderness of Zinn

Guess what? They complain that they are thirsty again.....And that is where our story picks up again....

Moses and the Rock round 2

Numbers 20:2–5 (ESV) — 2 Now there was no water for the congregation. And they assembled themselves together against Moses and against Aaron. 3 And the people quarreled with Moses and said, “Would that we had perished when our brothers perished before the LORD! 4 Why have you brought the assembly of the LORD into this wilderness, that we should die here, both we and our cattle? 5 And why have you made us come up out of Egypt to bring us to this evil place? It is no place for grain or figs or vines or pomegranates, and there is no water to drink.”

Moses has to be so frustrated with these people. IF it wasn't for their lack of faith....they would all be in the Promised Land and this horrible journey would be over.

Numbers 20:6 (ESV) — 6 Then Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly to the entrance of the tent of meeting and fell on their faces. And the glory of the LORD appeared to them, d

But even though Moses is frustrated.....He models for us what we should do when people drive us nuts. Great leadership moment here....when you don't know what to do....fall on your faces before Go

Numbers 20:6–9 (ESV) — 6 And the glory of the LORD appeared to them, 7 and the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 8 “Take the staff, and assemble the congregation, you and Aaron your brother, and tell the rock before their eyes to yield its water. So you shall bring water out of the rock for them and give drink to the congregation and their cattle.” 9 And Moses took the staff from before the LORD, as he commanded him.

Note the instructions.....You and Aaron take the staff and TELL the rock to yield its water. All Moses has to do is speak to the Rock and promised land here we come.

Numbers 20:10–11 (ESV) — 10 Then Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock, and he said to them, “Hear now, you rebels: shall we bring water for you out of this rock?” 11

And Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock with his staff twice, and water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their livestock.

Did God tell Moses to say anything to the people of Israel? Did God tell Moses to strike the rock? Did God tell Moses to strike it twice? Did God keep His promise and provide even though Moses was disobedient? Look at God's Response....He is not happy

Numbers 20:12–13 (ESV) — 12 And the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not believe in me, to uphold me as holy in the eyes of the people of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land that I have given them." 13 These are the waters of Meribah, where the people of Israel quarreled with the LORD, and through them he showed himself holy.

Why is God so angry? What did Moses do that was so wrong? So he hit the rock a few times....big deal....so What? Did you notice the word "we"? "Here now you rebels...shall WE bring water for you out of this rock?

Who is doing this Moses? We? Who is We? This is a God thing.....He is the one doing the miracle.....He is the one providing.....NO we here kemosabe. Moses....in his frustration.....forgot who was doing the miracle. He took credit for what God was doing. He tried to place Himself as their provider.....

But there is another reason why God is so specific and so angry here....

BUILD HERE>

God had promised through Moses of the coming Messiah. In Exodus 20.....The presence of God which had been in the cloud by day and fire by night.....descended upon Mt Sinai. Clouds, smoke, lightning covered the Mountain. Moses comes down. from Mt Sinai.

Exodus 20:18–21 (ESV) — 18 Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off 19 and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die."

20 Moses said to the people, "Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin." 21 The people stood far off, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.

The people were afraid of God and asked that they not have to have God speak to them directly again. Moses would be their intermediary. They were too afraid to be in the Presence of God.

Moses you go over there to God....we will wait here and you can tell us what God says. From that point forward.....Moses met with God- and delivered the message to the Israelites. Moses became a prophet- a human who speaks God's word to other people. Then God makes a promise about someone else who would do the same.

Messiah

Deuteronomy 18:15–16 (ESV) — 15 “The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— 16 just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’

Deuteronomy 18:16–19 (ESV) — 17 And the LORD said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. 18 I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.

God promised that the Messiah would be like Moses...."I will put my words in his mouth and he shall speak all that I command him."..Look at what Jesus would say.....

John 12:49 (ESV) — 49 For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak.

Over and over we see in Scripture the fulfillment of God's promises. God said one would come like Moses who would speak His words and Jesus came and did exactly that.

But was Jesus like Moses? When we look at the life of Moses.....does it foreshadow the coming of Jesus. God promised that one would come like Moses.....

Moses and Jesus

Both were born Hebrew Both were chosen by God to be His leader Both were born during a time when God's children were suffering Both were born under a cruel leader (Moses Pharaoh and Jesus Herod) Cruel leaders Pharaoh and Herod tried to kill all the babies Both hidden in Egypt as infants Both spent 40 days fasting and in spiritual crisis

Both communicated directly with God Both had brothers and sisters who didn't believe in them Both taught their followers how to pray Both chose successors to carry on the mission after their death Both had people pick up stones to stone them but did not succede

Moses introduce the Passover Lamb...Jesus was the passover lamb. Moses sent 12 Spies to Canaan so that many people could come to the Promised Land

Jesus sent his 12 disciples into the world so that many people could come to the Promised Land Moses appointed 70 rulers over Israel Jesus appointed 70 disciples to the nations Moses controlled the waters of the Red Sea Jesus controlled the waters of the Sea of Galilee

The face of Moses shown with glory after seeing God on Mt Sinai The Face of Jesus shown with glory as God at the transfiguration Moses lifted up a bronze serpent in the desert to heal people of their disease Jesus was lifted up on the cross to heal us of the disease of sin

Moses was a shepherd Jesus was the Good Shepherd Moses subdued an attack by the enemy by raising his arms up high on a hill Jesus subdued an attack by his enemy by

raising his arms up high on Calvary's hill Moses said another would come.....Jesus Jesus said another would come....The Holy Spirit

Those who chose to not follow God's leading of Moses died in the wilderness because of their lack of faith Those who chose to not following Jesus's leading as God die in the spiritual wilderness because of their lack of faith. Both fed people supernaturally with bread

Both had long periods of silence in the Scriptures from when they were a young child until they started their adult ministry Both showed compassion to a woman at the well Moses gave God's law from the Mountain Jesus gave God's new law from the Mt of Beatitudes Moses' mission was to redeem people from slavery in Egypt Jesus' mission was to redeem mankind from slavery

Moses struck the Rock to get water that was poured out on Gods rebellious Children in the wilderness so that they could live. tha.....Jesus was the rock, the cornerstone, who was struck so that living water (The Holy Spirit) could be poured out on God's rebellious children so that they could live spiritually

Wait a minute.....

Could it be....could it be...that this whole rock thing, striking the rock....getting water out....is a foreshadowing of Jesus being struck and living water pouring out?

Could it be that one of the reasons God had been so clear in His instructions to Moses is that The Rock and Water were symbolic of days to come? Could it be that God was using this moment to foreshadow the Messiah and it was critical to Him that the rock only be struck once and only His authority?

Days when the Messiah, the Rock, Jesus would be struck. And God would be standing by.....and the Spirit of God would be poured out. You see Jesus only had to be struck down once.....after that all you had to do to receive the Spirit of God was to ask.

So have you?

Have you asked God for all the living water that He can pour out on you? Or are you taking matters into your own hands.....acting like you are the one who provides it.....and trying through you own efforts to earn it.....

Moses didn't listen to God....In his arrogance and anger he lectured the people and struck the rock not once but twice. Moses didn't enter the promised land because He decided to take credit for what God was going to do for the people.

Moses is like a lot of us....God blesses us....gifts us.....positions us....and then when all we have to do is ask Him and follow Him.....

We decide to take credit for what God is doing.....we begin to think we have the gifts....the talent....we begin to look down on others and even lecture them.....We take matters into our own hands....and act out in our anger and self righteousness,

Once we decide that we no longer need God....that we can obtain and distribute what only God can provide. We miss the Promised Land.....the place where everything depends upon God.

So what can we learn from Moses? How do we apply what we have learned today?

I think the take home for this week is simple....Get down off the throne of your life and let God take His rightful position in your life

1 Corinthians 1:28–31 (ESV) — 28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, 29 so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. 30 And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, 31 so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Acts 12:21–23 (ESV) — 21 On an appointed day Herod put on his royal robes, took his seat upon the throne, and delivered an oration to them. 22 And the people were shouting, "The voice of a god, and not of a man!" 23 Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him down, because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and breathed his last.

2 Corinthians 10:15–18 (ESV) — 15 We do not boast beyond limit in the labors of others. But our hope is that as your faith increases, our area of influence among you may be greatly enlarged, 16 so that we may preach the gospel in lands beyond you, without boasting of work already done in another's area of influence. 17 "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord." 18 For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends.

Psalms 115:1 (ESV) — 1 Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!

Acts 14:11–16 (ESV) — 11 And when the crowds saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in Lycaonian, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!" 12 Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. 13 And the priest of Zeus, whose temple was at the entrance to the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates and wanted to offer sacrifice with the crowds.

14 But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their garments and rushed out into the crowd, crying out, 15 "Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them. 16 In past generations he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways.

Close with the Pendulum

We can often be tempted to feel prideful about things that we did not actually make happen. We can be tempted to boast to others about the things we have done. In actuality, God deserves credit for all of the good things in our lives.

The job you have and the amount of money you make are not due to your "hard work", your education, or your experience. You have that job and that paycheck by the grace of God. The talents that I was so cocky about so many years ago was not my own doing – those skills were a gift to me from God. He was working to make me successful, even though I did not know it at the time and was not giving Him any credit for His work.

While we are not called to put ourselves down or to be self-deprecating, we are called to be humble. We are called to acknowledge what God has done for us and what He continues to do for us daily.

Matthew 23:12 (ESV) — 12 Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

Communion