

Series: The Life of Moses

C.R. 10-29-17

“Defining Moments”

Text: Numbers 20: 1-12

Intro: Have you ever had a moment in your life that you would give anything to take back, or get a do over? The answer I am sure is yes, and there have probably been more than one. We have all lived through what we would describe as defining moments in history. The JFK assassination, 911, etc..

It truly is amazing to think that you do so well for so long and then in a moment a decision you make, or something that happens can define the rest of your life. For Moses this was one of those days. A day that he would love to have back. A day that he let his temper get the best of him, and it cost him dearly. Let's take a closer look at this day in the life of Moses.

1) The Complaint of the People (v.2-5)

- a. Note this is the 40th year in the wilderness. This is the next generation.
- b. They are different generation; they are not a better generation.
- c. Just like their parents before them they have unbelief in them.
- d. In their unbelief they start the same mess as their parents. Why did you bring us out here to die? I wish we were back in Egypt (how do they remember that).
- e. **Note 5:** They listed everything that they could have had in abundance if they would have only gone into the promised land.
- f. Unbelief makes the past look brighter and the future look bleaker.
- g. Unbelief causes us to doubt God's leading. Moses is only taking them where the clear direction of God is sending them.
- h. Unbelief caused them to doubt God's provision. They have been living in the wilderness for 40 years and God has supplied their needs and now that they can't find a little water to drink they are going to die.
- i. Unbelief causes us to be impatient, to grumble and complain, and to be impatient.

2) The Choice of Moses (v. 6)

- a. Moses has learned what to do by now. Go to the Lord. Ask Him what to do.
- b. They leave this angry mob and they get on their face before God
- c. Note the last part of this verse. The Glory of the Lord appeared unto them.

3) The Command Of God (v. 7-8)

- a. Take the Rod. Its presence in Moses' hand would remind the people of all the deliverance that they had seen and enjoyed and all the provision that they had enjoyed from God's hand. Seeing it would remind them of God's mighty redemptive acts. Its impact would be to focus their attention on the God who has done so much for them.

That's what this is all about: to focus their attention on the God who's done so much for them. How would he not continue to do much for them?

- b. Speak to the Rock, and water will flow.
- c. God had led them to this place to once again show to them that he is their provider.
- d. Amazing: He is willing to provide for a grumbling, backbiting, and complaining people.
- e. God, in his grace, leads his people into hard places to in order that we might see what he does for us, see new and afresh how he loves us and what he will not—he'll do anything for us.
- f. Romans 8:32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

4) The Crime of Moses (10-12)

- a. It's not like Moses spent a week or two here thinking about it. He walked from the presence of God to the people and did his own thing.
- b. God did not tell Moses to speak to the people He told him to speak to the rock.
- c. Psa 106:33 Because they provoked his spirit, so that he spake unadvisedly with his lips.
- d. He decided on his own to shear the sheep.
- e. Then he took the Rod, and struck the rock not once but twice.
- f. Please note; God did not call him out on his temper, or his mental breakdown. He calls out his unbelief.
- g. God meant to get the glory out this, and Moses robbed him of that.
- h. God tells Moses and Aaron "Because you have not believed Me, to treat Me as holy in the sight of the sons of Israel, you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I gave given them.
- i. He tainted the holiness of God.
- j. Leaders: We are a public display before the world of who God is. When we willfully disobey God, it casts a shadow on the Glory of God.
- k. The Rock is a type of Christ. 1Co 10:4 And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.
- l. He is our rock struck once for our provision and our thirst. He is the only one that quench that thirst, and he will not be struck again.
- m. It is a completed work.
- n. Moses took the attention of the people away from God and put it squarely on himself.
- o. God will not share his glory, and the rock will always be the only way.
- p. Note: God still provided the water, and yes he forgave Moses but the consequences remained.