

LESSON FROM MOSES AND THE ROCK

By Keith Greer

Please read Numbers 20:1-13. What lessons can we learn from those events? Let me give you a few to consider.

God's Instructions can change. "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. " {Exodus 17:6} At Rephidim Moses was told to strike the rock. In Kadesh he was instructed to speak to the rock. God's law for receiving water had changed. Yet, one thing had not-God gave both instructions! Many today want to continue under the Law of Moses. God's word says that His law has changed, Hebrews 7:12. Same God-new law.

Substitution for God's Way is Rebellion. "There is a way that seems right to a man, but the end is the way of death. "{Proverbs 14:12} To many what Moses did seems very trivial. Yet, when one changes God's instructions or words there will be severe consequences. Remember Nadab and Abihu, Leviticus 10:1,2.

End Does not Justify the Means. Yes, the water came from the rock that Moses struck. Oh, what a price it came at! Moses would not lead God's people into the Promise Land, Joshua would lead the people in. Something might bring good results, but if it is not in accordance with God's will it is not pleasing to Him, Colossians 3:17.

God's Law Applies Equally to All of God's People. "For there is no partiality with God. "{Romans 2:11} Moses was the leader of God's people. He had done many great things during the 40 years the children of Israel had wandered in the wilderness. All the good that Moses had done in faithful service to God during his life could not erase or justify one act of disobedience! All the good men may do in carrying out their duties will not take care of one act of disobedience against the law of God. Are God's leaders above committing sin? We all have feet of clay-just like Moses! ***