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TOPIC: GOD'S FAITHFULNESS EVEN IN OUR UNFAITHFULNESS

TEXTS: EXODUS 17:1-7 and ROMANS 5:1-11

DATE: SUNDAY 8TH MARCH, 2026

Beloved in Christ Jesus, Happy Sunday!!!

Last Sunday Rev Liz led us in an exciting practical sermon of the journey of life bringing to our knowledge that we are all on different stages of our journey of life from the youngest to the oldest, Rev Liz ended by giving us the greatest and unfailing map for our journey which is "LOVE".

Today We will center our message on the Bible readings (Exodus 17:1-7 and Romans 5: 1-11), on a topic I captioned " God's faithfulness even in our unfaithfulness".

Dear People of God, our old testament reading Exodus 17: 1-7, brings to our knowledge the journey of the Israelites from the wilderness of sin to Rephidim, where a lack of water led them to quarrel with Moses and question God's presence.

Moses was gripped with fear that they would stone him, and He petitioned God. God commanded Moses to strike a rock at Horeb , miraculously providing water. The place was named Massah(Testing) and Meribah(Quarrelling).

We will notice the key contents of this reading to be namely - (a) The Conflict (b) The Test (c) The Miracle and (d) The Significance. Let's visit the place first, then return to its aspects.

The Place: Massah (Testing) and Meribah (Quarrelling) : These are all part of human nature and destination which we must all get to at one point or the other in our journey of life.

We encounter these two places every now and then, it is either we are testing or we are being tested , quarrelling or being quarrelled.

Testing: Some or most of us are testing God and others in our life at the moment! And when it comes to testing the main thing we are looking for is " Faithfulness" . Are you testing God? You will surely find Him faithful because He has been tested and trusted and proven to be " Faithful even in our unfaithfulness".

Are you testing others? Those who love this faithful God and obey His commands will pass your test while the world will surely fail you and I.

Quarrelling: We often find ourselves quarrelling God or quarrelling our Leader and others in our life's journey, who are you quarrelling at the moment, is it God ? don't worry, be rest assured that he is present, listening and that He cares for you in that situation, illness, lack or whatever be your own case because He cares. Are you quarrelling yourself or others, you may or may not get that love , care and support that you need from them because it is human nature to fail but God never fails, so look up(to God) and live.

Taking a further look at the aspects of our old testament reading let's quickly look at each of them.

A. The Conflict : The congregation , despite traveling by God's command,lacked water at Rephidim and grumbled against Moses, complaining that they, their children, and their livestock would die of thirst. Beloved, what do you do when you face conflict? Do you murmur / grumble against the Leader or do you turn to God in Prayers ?

B. The Test: Here Moses was brave enough to identify their complaint not just as a grievance against him , but as a test of the Lord. They questioned " Is the LORD among us or not?" . Just take note , and give this question a personal answer.

C. The Miracle: God instructed Moses to take the elders and his staff(the same one used to strike the Nile) to a rock at ~~the~~ Horeb. God stood before him on the rock, and upon being struck , it produced water. Is God still our living fountain and Jehovah Jireh as a people today? Or do we think we have it all worked out on our own? This is food for thought for all of us.

D. The Significance: The incident highlights human nature and propensity to forget past deliverance during present trials. It also serves as a foreshadowing, with theological interpretations often viewing the " ROCK" as a symbol of Christ or God's provision in the wilderness . Is God still our rock and fortress and the great provider today? Another personal question calling for answers.

Away from the old testament we move to the new testament reading Romans 5: 1-11. This scripture outlines that believers, justified by faith in Jesus Christ , have peace with God, stand in grace , and rejoice in the hope of sharing His glory. Going back to testing and prove, this scripture in verse 6 emphasizes that God proved His love by having Christ die for sinners - " For when we were yet without strength in due time Christ died for the ungodly (Romans 5 vs 6) , once again showing " God's faithfulness even in our unfaithfulness". In this passage we will draw such themes like Peace and Standing, Suffering and Hope, God's love,

Reconciliation and Joy in God.

a. Peace and Standing: 'Therefore being justified by faith , we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Vs.1).

b. Suffering and Hope: Tribulation produces patience, experience and hope , which does not disappoint because of the Holy Spirit (Vs. 3-5).

c. God's love: " But God commendeth His love towards us in that , while we were yet sinners , Christ died for us." (Vs. 8).

d. Reconciliation: As former enemies reconciled by Christ's death , believers are saved by His life (Vs. 10) .

e. Joy in God: Believers boast in God through Jesus Christ , having received atonement (Vs.11),

In summary God has procured for us a five star life , with all these works done for us and for our salvation. I can only conclude by saying that the faithful God in an unfaithful world - The rock in the wilderness and the cross on Calvary tell the same story: God remains faithful even when we are unfaithful.

1. His grace flows not because we are good, but because He is good.

2. His love is not earned ; it is given.

3. His presence is not conditional; it is promised.

I call on you today to trust the God who has never stopped being faithful - bring Him your doubts, your dryness, your fears, and your failures. He is the God who brings water from rocks and salvation from a cross.

May God bless us and bless His word in Jesus Name.Amen.