

## The Age of Heroes

Moses: Trust

05/27/2018

Sunday AM

### Scripture: Numbers 20:1-13

#### Introduction

- Last week, in honor of Memorial Day, we spoke about **The Importance of Remembering**.
- We discussed how since the American Revolution we have lost nearly 1.2 million soldiers on the battle field
- 75% of those were from the Civil War and WWII.
- Remembering the sacrifice of our fellow American's to secure and defend our freedom is very important.
- However, remembering Christ's ultimate sacrifice on the cross is even more important.
- This morning we are going to begin a series entitled **The Age of Heroes**.
- We will look at three prominent heroes in the Bible—examining their strengths, weaknesses, and how Christ succeeded where they failed.
- We begin with **Moses: Trust**.
- Moses is definitely a hero of the Bible, but just like you and I, he had strengths and weaknesses.

#### Numbers 20:1-13

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>Now there was no water for the community, and the people gathered in opposition to Moses and Aaron. <sup>3</sup>They quarreled with Moses and said, "If only we had died when our brothers fell dead before the LORD! <sup>4</sup>Why did you bring the LORD's community into this desert, that we and our livestock should die here? <sup>5</sup>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!" <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>The LORD said to Moses, <sup>8</sup>"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." <sup>9</sup>So Moses took the staff from the LORD's presence, just as he commanded him. <sup>10</sup>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?" <sup>11</sup>Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with his staff. Water gushed out, and the community and their livestock drank. <sup>12</sup>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." <sup>13</sup>These were the waters of Meribah, where the Israelites quarreled with the LORD and where he showed himself holy among them.

- V. 1 – The Israelites were right on the edge of the Promised Land, the southern tip of what would be Judah.
- They were in Kadesh in the Desert of Zin, where they were when they first sent in spies 37 years before.
- They had been wandering in the wilderness at this point for 40 years total.
- Miriam was Moses and Aaron's sister, and with her death, her brothers, Joshua, and Caleb were among the few that remained since they left Egypt. A whole generation had passed away.
- Vv. 2-4 – Water is scarce in the desert. Not only did they have all the people, but also their livestock.
- The people began to complain to Moses and Aaron and they questioned Moses as to why he led them there.
- V. 5 - As people tend to do, the Hebrews had forgotten. They had forgotten what took place in Egypt.
- Since there were few left that actually experienced Egypt, they began to really feel Egypt was better than where they currently were. They needed food and water.
- Vv.6-8 – Moses and Aaron left the people for a moment and went before the Lord at the Tent of Meeting.
- They needed the Lord's help to provide for the people and calm the tensions.
- The Lord appeared to them and He gave Moses specific instructions on what to do.
  - Take the staff, Gather the Assembly, Speak to the Rock

- The Lord said if Moses and Aaron did those things, water would pour out of the rock and the people and their livestock would be able to drink.
  - Vv.9-11 – Moses and Aaron had sought out the Lord’s help to fix their situation and He gave them specific instruction on what to do, all they had to do was follow those instructions.
  - Moses took the staff as God instructed him to do, they gathered the assembly...and Moses struck the rock with the staff. The rock then poured forth water, just as God had said it would and the people drank it.
  - **But wait, was that what Moses was supposed to do?**
  - V. 8 clearly tells us that the Lord told Moses to “Speak” to the rock, not strike it.
  - Moses didn’t just strike the rock once, he did it twice.
  - Right before he did that though he said this in v. 10, “Listen, you rebels, must **we** bring you water out of this rock?”
  - Who? See not only did Moses not follow God’s instructions, he seemed to lead the people to believe that he and Aaron were bringing them the water and he made no mention of God’s involvement.
  - V. 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.”
  - Moses was charged with not trusting in God enough and not honoring Him as holy.
  - The word “trust” here is the Hebrew *'aman* which means: to stand firm, to trust, to believe.
  - Even though God still allowed the miracle to be performed, Moses and Aaron paid a high price.
  - Moses along with Aaron, had led the Israelites out of Egypt and through the wilderness for 40 years, yet they would not be allowed to enter the Promised Land.
  - To some, this seems to harsh, however God was actually merciful to these two men.
  - Others paid with their lives for the type of sin that they committed before the Lord.
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- There is no doubt that Moses was a hero and a marvelous servant of our Lord.
  - God used Moses to do many wonderful and mighty things and because of the high position Moses held, he had to pay a high price for not trusting in the Lord.
  - The takeaway for us today is that when we go before the Lord in prayer, asking for his leadership and guidance for situations in our life, we need to trust and obey what He says.
  - Too often we will go before the Lord begging for help, only to take matters in our own hands the next breath
  - **Although God may still deliver us from that momentary struggle, does that mean we escape punishment for our sinful behavior?**
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- Do not be fooled, just because we live a life that is filled with earthly success, does not mean we are in good standing with God.
  - Also, just because He answered our prayer, it does not mean we did what we were supposed to do to honor Him as holy before all people.
  - God required that we trust Him. That means we believe in Him with all of our being.
  - **Do you trust God like that?**

## Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study

### Heaven

#### *Section 12: What Will We Do in Heaven?*

*Will we design crafts, technology, and new modes of travel?*