

Communion Meditation – In the Wilderness

Exodus 17.1-7

The Pattern of Unbelief

October 5th, 2014

Life in the Wilderness (7th in series)

The People are Thirsty

- **v1** ~ The people are thirsty / We've seen this before (no/bitter water)
- **v2** ~ Moses rightly directs them towards God, not himself
- **v3** ~ The people complain bitterly towards Moses
- **v4** ~ But Moses turns to God in sincerity / He models faith for the people
- **v5-7** ~ God has Moses strike the rock in Horeb and water emerges

The Pattern of Unbelief

- These people are whiners & complainers that don't know God
- They want someone to blame / they don't know God / so they blame Moses
 - **v7** ~ Massah (tempted) / Meribah (contention)
 - They say, "Is the LORD among us or not?" (**v7**)
- **!!!**: Forrest Gump ~ Lt. Dan insults the God of Forrest ("no shrimp")
 - Lt. Dan: "Where is this God of yours?"
 - Forrest: "It's funny Lt. Dan said that, 'cause right then God showed up."

Christ the Rock

- **Read 1 Cor 10.1-5** (Jesus was "that spiritual Rock that followed them")
- Modern commentators downplay that the "Rock followed them"
 - They spiritualize it and say God's providence followed them
 - But the text emphasizes the spiritual breaking into our reality . . .
 - The exodus years were replete with examples such as this

Answer this question honestly, "Are you a whiner and complainer?"

All of us are tempted to whine and complain c/circumstances of life

But "do you recognize such whining and complaining as wrong?"

"Or do you seek to justify it – to point out how your situation is different?"

Few of us direct our complaints towards God . . .

We seek out the Moses' of life to rail against . . .