

# The Facilitator

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Community Groups @ Trinity Presbyterian Church

3/10/19

**Text: Exodus 17:1-7**

**Title: God on Trial**

**Teacher: Tim Rice**

## **Surrender through Prayer:**

*Surrender through prayers for Illumination and Transformation, asking that Jesus would meet with you in this time.*

## **Engage with the Sermon**

*Read the passage together*

***As we saw in Exodus 17, the people of Israel were once again in a position of need they could not rectify themselves. They had seen God do miraculous things in their midst and yet, whether it was weeks or days later, in an arid climate when they were in dire need of water, rather than trust the Lord and ask Him to provide, their grumbling turned into quarreling and in their unbelief, they put God on trial and called Him a fraud. Ready to stone Moses, they'd already made their verdict that God was not trustworthy. As we face trials and burdens in our lives, just like Israel, rather than ask God to provide and comfort we put God himself on trial and accuse our Maker and Sustainer of unthinkable things. The miracle of the Gospel is that even though God does not deserve our condemnation, He willingly submits himself to the accusations that we rightfully deserve, and He takes our due punishment on Himself. Then, just as from the stone in Exodus 17, when the punishment is struck against God himself in Christ, rivers of water, our source of life, pour forth and provide for all we need.***

## **Reflection Questions:**

1. *Tim told about the U.S. journalists who took their liberties in their questions to the president in Venezuela. In our sin, we believe we are free to do and to say whatever we want without consequences, even to our maker, who is under not obligation to be critiqued, or to offer an explanation.*
  - ***When are you most likely to question God's character? How have you demanded He explain himself to you?***
2. *Like a courtroom drama, rather than rendering the verdict, God, the judge, takes the place of the accused to receive the blow of punishment.*
  - ***When do you struggle most to see yourself as worthy of God's judgment?***
  - ***What is most amazing to you about God offering himself as the "Accused" who would take the punishment?***
3. *Tim said it's only after being washed clean that a wound is sewed closed. So too, only after cleansing in Jesus' blood, can we receive His presence and Spirit.*
  - ***How have you expected God to show up, before cleansing your life and heart?***
  - ***How have you expected God to provide you "the good life", and that cleansing work to be painless?***

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## **WORSHIP AND PRAYER:**

### **A.C.T.S.**

*(Spend time in prayer and worship as you consider Adoring God the Father, Confessing your sin and weakness, giving thanks to Jesus, and asking Holy Spirit to transform you. Use this as a time to talk to God about what's been revealed in your heart from this sermon.)*

**1. ADORATION** *(The Father)*

**Adore and Worship God for His attributes and actions**

**2. CONFESSION** *(Me)*

**Spend time Confessing sin and ways in which you are finite and limited**

**3. THANKSGIVING** *(Jesus)*

**Give thanks to Jesus for his salvation (past, present, future)**

**4. SUPPLICATION** *(Holy Spirit)*

**Ask Holy Spirit to transform you in specific ways**

**5. Prepare for Gospel Community** *(My Neighbor)*

**Pray for those who are on your heart, that God would use you to impact them with His gospel message.**

### **Prayer Items**

- 1. Worship the LORD that He has revealed Himself as the Savior of all who trust in Him. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit that He has provided a way for justice to be satisfied on our behalf and for us to be reconciled.*
- 2. How have you lived as if your definition of "the good life" is what God owes you? Confess your demanding spirit to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and transform you to seek your goodness in Him.*
- 3. Give thanks to Jesus for the miracle of His being Accused when we deserve to not just be accused but condemned before Him! Thank Him for taking your place and for giving you His record of goodness.*
- 4. Who do you know that grumbles like the Israelites, asking "Is God really among us?" Pray for them, asking the Lord to help them see how He has offered to be present with us in Christ by His Holy Spirit.*
- 5. Read John 7:37-39. Ask the Spirit to help you drink of Christ as He offered. Pray for a sense of His quenching your thirst and sourcing you (infinitely!) because Jesus atoned for you and fills you by His own Presence.*