



Sunday Morning, February 28, 2024 » Pastor Josiah Kagin

Message Title: It Took Control

Message Text: Numbers 20:1-13

Introduction:

There is a lot of rage and anger in our world today. In 2023, 92% of Americans reported that they had witnessed an incident of road rage. Displays of anger in protests, hate crimes, at the sporting events and in the work place seem almost common place. As a society we are on edge! It is easy to see the anger and its consequences in others, but what about our lives? Let's pause to consider an incident in the life of Moses who allowed his anger to *control* his reaction and faced very difficult long-term consequences. Let's seek the help of the Holy Spirit to put off sinful anger and put on characteristics of Christ.

1. A _____ Point (1-8)

A. The _____ of a Loved One (1-2)

Numbers 20:1–2 Then came the children of Israel, even the whole congregation, into the desert of Zin in the first month: and the people abode in Kadesh; and Miriam died there, and was buried there. 2 And there was no water for the congregation: and they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron.

NOTE — Like many siblings, Moses, Aaron and Miriam did not always see eye to eye. Earlier, when Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses for marrying an Ethiopian woman, both were rebuked by the Lord for speaking against God's servant. Miriam became leprous.

Numbers 12:13 And Moses cried unto the Lord, saying, Heal her now, O God, I beseech thee.

B. The Pressure of a _____ Suit (3-5)

Numbers 20:3–5 And the people chode with Moses, and spake, saying, Would God that we had died when our brethren died before the Lord! 4 And why have ye brought

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up the congregation of the Lord into this wilderness, that we and our cattle should die there? 5 And wherefore have ye made us to come up out of Egypt, to bring us in unto this evil place? it is no place of seed, or of figs, or of vines, or of pomegranates; neither is there any water to drink.

DEFINITION—CHODE: to bring suit; to institute legal proceedings against; file a suit against someone.

NOTE — Moses became the object of their rage against God.

Psalm 27:1–3 The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? 2 When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, They stumbled and fell. 3 Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: Though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident.

C. The _____ of their Merciful God (6-8)

Numbers 20:6–8 And Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and they fell upon their faces: and the glory of the Lord appeared unto them. 7 And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, 8 Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink.

COMMANDS FOR MOSES — Take thy rod, gather the people, and speak unto the rock

GOD WOULD PROVIDE WATER — *it shall give forth his water*

2. An _____ Reaction (9-11)

Ephesians 4:26–27 *Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: 27 Neither give place to the devil.*

QUOTE—Anger is a God-given powerful emotion (see Eph. 4:26) with intensity that ranges from being frustrated to severe fury. It can last from a few seconds to a lifetime. Anger itself is not a sin. What we do in our anger determines whether we sin. — *Clinton, T., & Hawkins, R.*

Vocalized—Internalized—Slow Expression (Passive Aggressive)

A. He _____ God's Place (9-10)

Numbers 20:9-10 And Moses took the rod from before the Lord, as he commanded him. 10 And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them, Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock?

NOTE — God did not command Moses to speak to the people but unto the rock.

B. He _____ God's Word (11)

Numbers 20:11 And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also.

NOTE — In Exodus 17:1-17, Moses was to strike the rock, here he was to speak to the rock.

1 Corinthians 10:4 And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

John 7:37-39 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. 38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. 39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Revelation 22:1 And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

Psalms 4:4 Stand in awe, and sin not: Commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still. Selah.

3. A Lasting _____ (12-13)

A. God's _____ (12a)

Numbers 20:12 And the Lord spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel...

Numbers 15:1-2 And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, 2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land of your habitations, which I give unto you,

DEFINITION—SANCTIFY: to set apart; to elevate Him as sovereign

NOTE — Moses' angry reaction drew the attention away from God power.

James 1:20 For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

B. Moses' _____ (12b-13)

Numbers 20:12–13 And the Lord spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them. 13 This is the water of Meribah; because the children of Israel strove with the Lord, and he was sanctified in them.

A LOSS OF OPPORTUNITY

A LABELED MEMORY

DEFINITION—MERIBAH: to strive

NOTE — At the end of the day, the LORD was still elevated as sovereign, but Moses lived with the consequence of his angry reaction.

Conclusion:

Colossians 3:8 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. (See also 3:9-16)

Colossians 3:21 Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.

Prayer

Lord, help me to believe your Word and trust in your divine plan and provision so that I will not be driven by my emotions and sin against you.

**Let us therefore come boldly
unto the throne of grace, that
we may obtain mercy, and find
grace to help in time of need.**

Hebrews 4:16

6 Steps in Dealing with our Anger

By Clinton, T., & Hawkins, R.

1. Own your anger. *(Admit your issue; don't justify)*
2. Slow down, give yourself a time-out. *(Take some time to think and pray before talking or acting)*
3. Use physical activity. *(Exercise, a walk in the fresh air, gardening)*
4. Keep a journal. *(Track your triggers, write scripture that will transform your mind, express your feelings in writing to the Lord rather than unleashing on others)*
5. Seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit and help from others. *(Godly, Biblical counseling and accountability)*
6. Seek forgiveness. *(This leads to restoration and also lets others know that you realize you have a problem and are working on it.)*

General Questions to Consider

By Clinton, T., & Hawkins, R.

1. What makes you angry?
2. How do you express your anger? Is the way you are expressing your anger working?
3. What is your first memory of feeling out of control when you got angry?
4. Do you ever take any action to redirect your anger to a nonrelated activity?
5. Are you ever able to calm your anger? If so, how?
6. Has anger created any health issues?
7. How did you see anger expressed during childhood?

8. Could there be anger from your past that is affecting you now?
9. What was it like to be on the receiving end of someone else's anger?
10. How is the way you express your anger harming you in your relationships?
11. How often do fights get physical?
12. When you get angry, how safe do you feel? How safe do those around you feel?
13. Do others see anger in you that you do not?
14. Do you have anyone with whom to talk about your anger?
15. Will you consider forgiving the people with whom you are angry?
16. Do you pray to God about your anger?
17. Do you ever allow your anger to escalate?
18. Do you deal with your anger "before the sun goes down" (see Eph. 4:26)?



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