

## Numbers 20:2-3

*Now there was no water for the congregation; so they gathered together against Moses and Aaron. And the people contended with Moses and spoke, saying: "If only we had died when our brethren died before the LORD!"*

We are all familiar with what is called the Lord's prayer and right before Jesus taught His disciples how to pray He said:

✠ **Matthew 6:7** *And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.* (underlined for emphasis)

Jesus said "*when you pray*", because He knows everyone does pray, even if it's "God help me." Because prayer is just simply talking to the Lord, whether you say amen or not, it's still praying. But how many have three different types of prayers that they pray?

The first being your normal prayer time with the Lord or saying thank you for my food etc...

The second is when you have those deep, down, moaning and groaning times in prayer for some great need that you have, maybe your rent is due and you have no money, or maybe your car broke down and you can't afford to get it fixed, or whatever is going on in your life causing you to change the tone of your voice and even your attitude in prayer.

The third is just a bunch of whining and complaining to the Lord, because you are not getting your way and what you want.

Now read today's devotional verses again.

✠ *Now there was no water for the congregation; so they gathered together against Moses and Aaron. And the people contended with Moses and spoke, saying: "If only we had died when our brethren died before the LORD!"*

What was going on here is that the children of Israel were wandering the desert for years now, and they were out of water. So they go to Moses and Aaron and start complaining about what they didn't have. I would encourage you to read all of chapter 20 in Numbers, because it not only tells of how God provided water for over two million people in the desert, but also how Moses and Aaron lost the right to enter the Promised Land, and one cause of that was the Children of Israel complaining.

But as I was reading about this, this morning, I started to think, "What if the children of Israel just came to Moses and Aaron and simply asked them to talk to God and ask Him to supply water for them?" Think about it, they needed water and God supplied the water. He was going to do it anyway. But if they asked calmly trusting in God, Moses and Aaron, may have made it to the

Promised Land, because they would have probably come back and said calmly, “*We talked to God, and He said for me to strike the rock and you will have the water you need.*”

I know it sounds simple, yet we treat God in prayer sometimes like He doesn’t hear us or like He really doesn’t understand why we have this urgent need right now. Remember Jesus said:

† **Mark 11:24** *Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.*

Notice Jesus never said to change the way you pray or the tone of your voice, or to whine and complain, or to give a long winded explanation to God why you need what you need. But to simply “ask” (not beg) in faith and “*believe that you receive them.*”

Here is another example of Jesus telling us how to approach God, and to simply “ask” God for what you want or need, not beg Him or shine to Him.

† **Matthew 7:7-8** *ASK, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who ASKS receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.* (All CAPS mine for emphasis)

If you have to beg God, how much faith do you really have, or how faithful does it even sound? God will answer the way He wants to, whether you beg and explain for fifteen minutes why you need it, sometimes even threatening God and telling Him He’s not doing a good job (Like the children of Israel were doing), verses simply bringing your need before God as you normally pray every day and ask God for what you need or want.

If your children come to you and ask you for something, how much more will you give it to them, verses if they come whining and complaining to you, would you not give it to them? Something to think about when you go to the Lord in prayer.

† **1 Thessalonians 5:17-18** *pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

† **Matthew 7:9-11 (NLT2)** *You parents—if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead? Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? Of course not! So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him.*