

The Water of Rephidim

Exodus 17:1-8

1. Introduction

In order to accomplish a great mission in the will of God, the most important factor is unity. Unity is not just external, but should involve unity of heart. It is also true with God's relationship with man.

2. God and Israel

After the Red Sea, the Israelites led by Moses went through so many travails, and came to Rephidim. They were thirsty and they complained. God told Moses, "you shall strike the rock and water shall come out of it." Moses did, and the people drank water. For God, this meant that a deep link was made – a link that could never be broken, no matter what happened afterwards between God and the people of Israel. God knew very well that the course of the Exodus was not easy, was filled with difficulties. He knew that great possibility of the disbelief and disobedience of the people. Not only the people, but also the possibility of the failure of Moses himself. By letting the Israelites drink the water of life, the heart of God was able to be inseparably and deeply connected with them. God's heart was so deeply linked with the people that even disobedience could not reach the core of the link (like mosquito bites).

Therefore, to make the link substantially, God could give the ten commandments and the tabernacle.

3. Among us

When you invite a guest for dinner, a guest with whom you don't have a substantial relationship of heart, if you utter some insulting words they will get angry and leave the dinner. But when your hearts are deeply linked, no matter what insulting words you say they are not hurt. You are both making sure that your heart is linked with such a depth. Even such a deep cut cannot reach the artery of love between you.

"Die liebenden nechen sich." This is a German saying. When the artery is running so shallow like the artery in the neck, then a slight cut becomes fatal. But when the artery is running so deep, like the artery in the thigh, then even the deepest cut doesn't reach the artery.

4. Conclusion

When we have to fulfill God's will, we must go through a lot of misunderstanding, accusation, etc. But when our hearts are deeply connected, no matter what happens we are not hurt among us. Like God and Israel, we can go together until we can reach Canaan.