

**Is the Lord among us or not?** What a laments toward God. What do you need to survive the day? Don't think about your phone, or your whining when the internet is monetarily down. What do you need to survive? Water. We don't think too much about water, easily overlook the necessity. We can survive 30 days without food, only survive about 3 days without water. This was something the Israelites dealt with. They had issues before without water, only bitter water, God made sweet, they need food, God rains bread from heaven and quail at night. Whenever the people were in need, the Lord provided. After all they had seen in Egypt, with plagues, Passover, Red Sea crossing, God always providing, they'd seen God's severe discipline.

But now no water. Did they forgot all the they had seen, all the works of God, how God always provides. Did they forget? No, they are just like you. They did what we all do when we don't have what we need, or think we need...they complained. They quarreled with Moses. They loathed their condition, thinking it would've been better to stay in Egypt and die there a slave than be free and thirsty. They knew, did not forget, but like you may think, *"I'm a faithful Christian, go to church, pray, read the Bible (sometimes), but I shouldn't have to deal with problems."*

Intriguing Moses named that place. Massah and Meribah; Massah means testing, Meribah means quarreling. Named the spot of God's divine care and miracle after the people's sin. You'd think it'd be named "The Lord provides" like Abraham. Or maybe Massah and Meribah, most appropriate because it reminds even us of God's faithfulness, even when we're not.

We're no different from the Israelites. Too often, we let our current conditions and situations direct our faith and trust. I don't have to rehearse all the news of the day, or even the last 3 years. people governed by fear and panic and anxiety, not just them out there, but you. *Isn't' being a Christian easy when we are healthy, happy, everyone gets along, enough money in the bank?*

Think about every complaint and grumble you have. Is it not ultimately against God? I should have better friends my life? You should have given me more understanding family. I don't have enough \_\_\_\_\_? Life's not ...fair. Things aren't good enough. Things aren't convenience enough. How do I get by for a few hours without my phone or internet? Have you stopped to think, reflect upon how much of what you say is negative?

The testing and quarrelling of dealing with family and friends. Why am I living with such loss? Why is my life filled with so much stress, and people who don't do what they should? Why me?

Every single one of your complaints and whining is no different than at Massah and Meribah. No different from the Israelites. This manifested itself in distrust of God, grumbling against Him. Their grumbling, your grumbling, my grumbling -no small thing. This grumbling was downright disdain for God. Repent and God help us to see His works, His providing even when, especially when people in our life lets us down, disappoint, when things come unraveled in our world, when fear and uncertainty grips us. When we worry and can't let go of our problems. We get so consumed with our earthly life to not **fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.**

**Is the Lord among us or not?** Jesus told her that He gives living water, a water that becomes in us a spring welling up to eternal life. Hearing this, she immediately asked for that water, but she wanted it not for eternal life but so that she'd never be thirsty or have to go to the well again. But that's not the point. That's not why Christ gives us living water. The living water that Christ gives isn't to end "thirst," but to guarantee life even in the midst of "thirst."

As the Samaritan women heard that day, spoken for you no less, **if you knew the gift of God who it is that is saying to you.** Yes!, if you knew the gift of God, then so much of what you really think is important loses all value. **If you knew the gift of God who it is that is saying to you.** Oh how you embrace the living water of His Word, splash daily in your baptism, crave the Holy Supper in your mouth, His liturgy on your lips.

**Is the Lord among us or not?** That's why we're here today, continually gathering no matter what. This place where Christ promises to be, to give us that living waters.

What do you need to survive the day? Jesus, the well of salvation, the rock that was struck; struck on the cross at the sixth hour, very same time He told the Samaritan woman about living water that He gives; water and blood from His pierced side that flows in the Sacraments that you are literally joined to His death and life. For grumbling and outcasts like us Samaritans, there is One who is here. There the One who said **I thirst.** It was for her He thirsts. It is for you He thirsts. **I thirst** that you never thirst again, forgiven, cleansed from His body. What do you need to survive the day? You have Him.