

**Devar Torah from the “Emunah & Bitachon Phone Line”
Parshat Mattos / Masei**

Rabbi Eli Golombeck explains:

The Torah says in parshat Masei (ט"ג) that Klal Israel camped in Rephidim and they did not find water to drink.

Harav Moshe Feinstein ז"ל asks in his sefer Derash Moshe, why did the Torah only say in this verse that they did not find water? That's only half the story. The other half of the story is that Hashem actually provided water for them to drink.

This is because the Torah wants to teach us the difference between living with Emunah & Bitachon and living without it.

Without it, of course a person would panic if he did not find water to drink.

The way of nature is that all living creatures require drinking water to survive. But the Emunah and Bitachon perspective tells us that Hashem does not need water to keep us alive. He can keep us alive also without water.

Therefore, the Torah wants to tell us that at this point in Rephidim that they could have continued their journeys in the midbar without water, if they were on this level of reliance on Hashem.

After all, in the midbar there were no childrens' clothing stores to buy new clothes when their kids grew out of the old ones. Furthermore, there were no washing machines in the midbar to freshen and clean the dusty clothes from their journeys. Why were they not panicking about the clothes too?

Indeed, Klal Israel was relying on Hashem as far as their clothing was concerned and we know that their clothes did not wear out, nor did the soles of their sandals during their 40 years of travelling.

And if they would have raised themselves up to the same level of Emunah and bitachon in regard to their drinking water, they would not have needed water to drink in the midbar.