

Behold,
I will stand
before you there
on the rock at Horeb;
and you shall
strike the rock,
and water shall
come out of it,
that the people may drink."
Exodus 17:5-6

Reflection:

July 2026

"And the Lord said to Moses,"... take in your hand the rod with which you struck the Nile and go. Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, that the people may drink." (Exodus 17:5-6)

*The people of Israel are in the desert. They have seen miracles.
They have crossed the Red Sea.
They have tasted God's power.
And yet – here they are again.
Thirsty. Tired. Complaining. Questioning:
"Is the Lord among us or not?"
This is not merely about water.
This is about a deeper thirst –
restless, wounded hearts that struggle to trust.*

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*And into this situation, God speaks. "Take the rod..."
The same rod that struck the Nile.
The same rod that was a sign of judgment and power.
And then something even more striking:
"I will stand before you on the rock."
God chooses to stand in the very place that will be struck.
It is as if He is saying:
"When your frustration rises...
when your complaints turn into blows...
I will not step away. I will receive it – and still give you life."*

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*But before we look at the world, we must look at ourselves.
Because we are Moses.
How many times have we held the rod?
How many times has our indifference struck Him?
How often has our anger, our callousness, or our secret hatred,
rained down as heavy blows on the Rock?
We question His presence when things go wrong.
We strike the Rock with our "why?" and our "not enough." And what is His response?
Does the Rock shatter? Does he strike back?
No. He gives forth water.
When we strike Him with our sin, He responds with a Fountain.
When we pierce His side with our rejection, He pours out Blood and Water.
We are not just observers of this miracle; we are the beneficiaries of a God
who allows Himself to be wounded so that we don't have to die of thirst.*



*This is the mystery that reaches its fullness in Jesus.
He becomes the Rock.
He stands before us.
And He is struck –
not just by a rod, but by the weight of every human struggle.
And from His pierced heart flows blood and water –
life for a thirsty world.*

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*Today, we are not in a physical desert.
But we carry this miracle within us.
As a Jesus Youth, this is where the call becomes real.
We are not just people who have received living water.
Because we have experienced His mercy when we struck Him,
we are called to become channels of that same mercy.
In our homes. In our workplaces. In our communities.
People carry wounds and unspoken struggles inside them.
And often, the thirst within them comes out as:
Harsh words
Impatience
Indifference
Anger
At times...it is directed toward us.
And we are "struck" –
not because of something we've done, but because someone is hurting.*

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*In those moments, what goes on inside us?
If we remember how Christ treated us when we struck Him,
we cannot harden.
Do we realise that a heart where God dwells
does not run dry when struck?
Can we become a place from where something refreshing flows?
We do not have to carry this water.
We only have to remain close to the Source.
Because a heart that stays in Jesus—the Rock
who was struck for us—will never be dry.
In these times of uncertainty,
when brokenness and fear rear their heads,
causing people to strike out,
may it be said of us:
"When the world struck with its brokenness,
It did not find a hardened stone...
But a healing spring of the Living Water of Christ."*

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