

# Warning against FALSE SECURITY

*Pastor Othniel James*

**Main scriptures: 1 Corinthians 10: 1-4; Exodus 17 : 1- 7**

**Supportive scriptures: John 4**

## **Notes:**

Paul says not to forget our ancestors from long ago. They walked through the red sea and drank from the same spiritual water - the rock that travelled with them and that Rock is Jesus.

The Book of Exodus gives us an account of the journey of the children of Israel leaving the land of Egypt and now facing several difficulties at one point they had no food. You can begin to imagine the impact that had on the Egyptians. Imagine 3 million people leaving Ontario in one night and when the companies are open in the morning there are no employees and they are gone. This was what it was like and worst with the Children of Israel leaving the land of Egypt. Those of us who have surrendered their lives to the Lord have nothing to worry about. God is leading them from place to place on their Exodus from Egypt. They arrive at Rephidim and 2-3 million people have realized that all the water is finished and they are in a desert place. What are we going to do? Give us water to drink! Was their demand. It is evident that it is the Lord who had orchestrated this plan, earlier there was one occasion where there was no food and the people complained against God and they said it were better to be sitting in Egypt as a slave than to be Free and cant find food. Now instead of the food it's water. We have to realize how important water is to an individual. A man can be spiritually thirsty and still exist but to be physically thirsty - it's a matter of time before his body is dehydrated and he dies. More so in the wilderness being exposed to the heat in a few days and you will die. The question is why are we at rephidim. Why has the Lord led us to this place and we are in a place where there is no water? It's a test. It's a trial, It's God having his people on trial. Coming out of Egypt the Lord told Moses to tell Pharaoh to let them go to worship God and this doesn't sound like worship. The experience when they were hungry God told Moses that they would recognize that it wasn't Moses but God that brought them out of Egypt. And now they are still believing the same lies- believing that Moses is the cause for them being in the wilderness. The constant murmuring created a gap between himself and the people. Just imagine what creates a sense of discord in society? It is the emptiness of man that no man can satisfy. Every man who is not reconciled with God is spiritually thirsty. And whether we want to believe there is a God or not we are still thirsty. How? You can see it in our choices and lifestyle, the things we continue to do expecting a different result and we are faced with the fact that that result is not realized. Such were the people of Israel. God showed up a few weeks ago and now they are in another crisis and the ugliness is showing. The men who God used to lead them out are now under fiery tongues of the nation of Israel. God never abandons something that he is doing. In the midst of the noise and the complaining one man bows to God - God what shall i do? God is up to something, the chaos in the camp/life is never too big for God to handle. He is the eternal God. Don't be afraid of the threat and the noise you are hearing. Move in front of the camp and take the staff you use to strike the river and take the Elders and join you and I will stand before you on Mount Sinai.

What do you mean God? Strike the rock and water will come out? Yes

You see the things of God can not be rationalized. His ways are past finding out. We are just a small matter in the hands of God. when God instructs it doesn't have to make sense. It's not for us to understand at all times what God is doing. As long as you are sitting in the midst of the noise there will be no water.

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The absence of water allowed them to question if the Lord's presence was here or not. That is the historical content that Paul is referring to in 1 Corinthians 10 as he writes to the church in Corinth. All of them ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual water they drank from the rock that traveled with them. Paul allows us to understand that Israel did not face another challenge like this until the death of Miriam. Everywhere that Israel went that Rock followed them and that Rock is Jesus. Those of us who have not yet received Jesus and the gift of God to this world I want you to understand that this rock is the only rock that can quench the thirst of humanity. He is the only answer to the sin problem in this world. Why we have chaos is because of one problem - sin. Without sin this whole world was a garden blessed of the Lord but until the day that man sinned this world plunged into gloom and darkness. There is an answer to this darkness today - it is found in no other but the rock that is given to us. There is an answer to the loneliness of man and it is found in Jesus Christ. What is your thirst this morning? What is happening so deep that causes you to be overwhelmed. It was a physical thirst for the children Israel but there is a deeper thirst than the physical

In John 4 there was a woman who met Jesus at the well and was very thirsty. It's only a matter of time before that thirst overwhelms us. This woman showed up at the well to draw water. Jesus sees the thirst deep inside this woman, God has something for every man, woman, boy and girl. When he led the people to Rephidim the absence of water did not take them by surprise; he brought them there to remind them that he was living water. Here we have a physical well called Jacob's well that quenched the thirst of Jacob and his children for many years but here comes the fountain of living water. This woman needs physical water but there is a need for spiritual water she is not even aware of. Anyone who drinks this water will soon be thirsty again because this water can only quench the physical thirst. Jesus has the water that will quench the spiritual thirst. Don't you know the sin condition left us broken and lonely but when God sent his only son into this world - any man who believes in him would have an everlasting life. The spiritual water that allows a man to become whole. The woman was interested in what Jesus had to offer. She desires the water even if she doesn't understand. One needs to desire what Jesus has to offer in order for our lives to be changed. We don't have to understand everything but once there is a desire on the inside Jesus has the ability to work with it. What does a husband have to do with water? Now we recognize this woman was in the same predicament that the children of Israel were in. She arrived to fetch water to provide for her house or quench her thirst but deep on the inside there was a spiritual thirst. Jesus recognized she was carrying a spiritual thirst. The thirst that causes us to be angry and makes us act in ways that we would rather not have happened. Jesus is that rock and if you ask of him he will give you water because this water will be a well springing up into everlasting life. How long will we carry the sorrows and pain when there is living water available to quench the thirst. Too often we have lives coming to a closure and its then we realize we have wasted our lives and wished we had come in contact with God and had a relationship with God. And now my life is empty and broken and miserable. I have good friends but when they leave there is a brokenness on the inside. I want you to understand that Jesus is the one who comes to quench that thirst and fill the emptiness in our heart. We can gain knowledge on the philosophies of this world but when you lie down you realize you lack purpose but no man has found purpose except inside Jesus. He brought us into this world as instruments of praise to declare the worship of God. Some of us have felt something they never felt and you like the energy but it is Jesus that comes to be with his people. What you feel is the presence that will fill the hunger you feel in your life. What you want is the rock that provides this living water.

This woman in John 4 has been through 5 husbands; she is still thirsty. Some of us believe we need a new relationship and that it will be different from the last one. This woman had 5 and is trapped in a cycle and still believing that this one would be different. Someone would said its the last time and after this I would just settle down - Jesus said im going to give you living water but you have to ask of me and i will give you to drink freely. Someone may say I believe but I'm not ready yet. Folks say that all the time. If this woman

had not followed through with a desire to be at Jacobs well she would have missed an opportunity. Jesus sat there waiting like he is waiting now waiting for a broken soul to say Lord i'm broken. SOMETIMES we wish we were on a different day but that's not the reality, the reality there is something missing on the inside. There is nothing we can see that can satisfy what's on the inside. It has everything to do with the unseen realm. If you make up your mind to follow him you will recognize that Jesus is the answer to the problems of society and to the broken family and the marriage that is falling apart. He is the answer to children who have dishonored their parents. How can you get this water? John 3: 16 God gave his only begotten son, whoever believes in Jesus will not die but have everlasting life. A man perishes when he fails to believe that Jesus is salvation and rejects Jesus and is face to face with the destiny of his soul. Where will he spend his eternity? Is it with the Lord? Or forever away from his presence? But those who believe in Jesus and the hour is now to make up your mind. We don't know how many opportunities we have. Obey now that we may live.

There is healing and deliverance today - do you want to taste this living water? Lord give me to drink and I will never thirst again.