

## **Weekly Lesson Theme: Mentoring: Investing in Others**

**Lesson Scriptures:** Numbers 27:12-23

**Key Lesson Theme:** "Moses & Joshua"

**Today's Lesson:** Tuesday, June 6

**Podcast Version:** [Soundcloud](#), [iTunes](#), or [Spotify](#)

### **Numbers 27:12-17**

12 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go up this mountain of the Abarim range and see the land that I have given the Israelites.

13 After you have seen it, you will also be gathered to your people, as Aaron your brother was.

14 When the community quarreled in the Wilderness of Zin, both of you rebelled against my command to demonstrate my holiness in their sight at the waters." Those were the Waters of Meribah-kadesh in the Wilderness of Zin.

15 So Moses appealed to the Lord,

16 "May the Lord, the God who gives breath to all, appoint a man over the community

17 who will go out before them and come back in before them, and who will bring them out and bring them in, so that the Lord's community won't be like sheep without a shepherd."

### **Commentary**

Water was scarce in the wilderness. The people complained to Moses, questioning why he had brought them from the prosperity of Egypt to this place. To them it appeared that Moses's plan was to kill the people and even their cattle, for the land where they were had nothing to offer; it was non-productive. If they were going to die, they would have just as soon died back in Egypt.

Moses gathered the people, chided them for their rebellious spirit, and even implied that he and Aaron would fetch water from the rock (20:10). With that he raised the rod and stuck the rock twice and water flowed abundantly. The need was met; the people were satisfied; but God was not.

The Lord accused Moses and Aaron of a lack of faith and that their action had detracted from the holiness of God. The Lord had said speak to the rock; Moses struck it—two times. Was that a display of anger? And as noted previously, his action seemed to focus more on his and Aaron's abilities than God's power. Moses failed to exalt the power of God and failed to call attention to the holiness of God whereby He would be glorified. Hence, though Moses would be allowed to see the new land the Lord had given to Israel, the Lord would deny him the opportunity to lead the people into it (Deut. 32:48-52). As a note, the name of the place where this happened was called Meribah [MEHR ih buh], from a word that means "contention."

Through Moses, God had led Israel out of Egypt and was preparing to lead them in to a new land. The successor to Moses was to lead the people out from where they were so that he might bring them in to where they needed to be. He was to set the example by go[ing] out before them and go[ing] in before them. A leader cannot function effectively from the rear or by refusing to face those whom he leads.

### **What are some lessons that come from Numbers 27:12-17?**

- As long as the Lord tarries there is a future for which we are to prepare even though we may not live to see it.
- We are to do all we can to live as people who acclaim the holiness of the Lord God.
- Our sins against the Lord do not negate our saving relationship to Him, but they may deny us opportunities to serve Him.
- God's people need effective, god-appointed leaders.

Until tomorrow Saints...  
Every day is Sunday