

Smitten Exodus 17:1-7

- I. This story is a prophetic picture of the Gospel.
 - A. Moses says, "They're about to stone me."
 1. That was capital punishment.
 - (a) Accusing Moses of sin worthy of death.
 2. But who's really guilty?
 - (a) Who are they really grumbling about?
 - (b) It's a failure to trust God
 - (c) A failure to believe his promise.
 3. They are actually shaking their fists at God.
 - (a) So, who really deserves to be stoned?
 - (b) But their blind to their own sin.
 4. Does that seem familiar?
 - (a) Maybe it should. It's just like us.
 5. We tend to think we're pretty good people.
 - (a) We justify ourselves.
 - (b) We don't really believe God's diagnosis.
 - (c) His diagnosis is Romans 3:23 and 6:23.
 6. Especially before our conversion, we are blind to sin.
 - (a) So, we fail to see our need for a Savior.
 7. Even after conversion, we fail to see how lost we were.
 - (a) So, we fail to appreciate our Savior.
 - (b) We fail to really appreciate grace.
 - B. The courtroom scene:
 1. Moses is the judge. He has the staff.
 2. Take some of the elders with you.
 - (a) You need witnesses to justice.
 3. "Walk on ahead of the people."
 - (a) Not to lead them.
 - (b) To stand before them as their judge.
 4. The people are familiar with this set up.
 - (a) This is a judicial setting.
 5. But who's on trial? Not Moses.
 - (a) The people are on trial.
 - (b) By this time, they remember their previous grumbling.
 - (c) They were the guilty ones.
 - (d) They may be getting a little nervous.
 6. God tells Moses to smite the rock (a judicial blow).
 - (a) But, weren't the people the guilty ones?
 - (b) Yes, they deserved to be smitten.
 - (c) But the rock was smitten for them.
 7. The Rock represents Christ (I Corinthians 10:4).
 - (a) Is the rock really Christ?
 - (b) Paul is talking about typology.

(c) It would not be appropriate to bow down to the rock.

- II. "Smitten" also describes God's correction of his wandering people.
 - A. How does God get our attention when we're off his path?
 1. Solomon's prayer of dedication: (2 Chronicles 6:24-31)
 - (a) God's response: (2 Chronicles 7:14)
 - B. God is still the Judge of the Nations.
 1. He doesn't just deal with individuals.
 2. Governments have authority delegated by God.
 - (a) That means they are also accountable to God.
 3. Governments represent the people as a nation.
 - (a) The whole nation is accountable for its laws and practices
 - (b) The nation is accountable for laws that allow abortion.
 - C. The nation is also accountable for the sin patterns of its culture (godlessness, perversion, pedophilia, violence, etc.).
 1. Why would we be responsible for things we don't practice?
 - (a) Because collectively we are a nation.
 2. As Christians we have our shortcomings.
 - (a) We are called to be salt and light.
 3. What happens when the salt has lost its saltiness?
 - (a) Have we impacted the culture or has the culture impacted us? Have we stemmed the tide of secularization?
- III. Repentance begins with the house of God! (Isaiah 9:8-12)
 - A. God warns Israel by allowing a limited attack (a smiting)
 1. God is calling for national repentance. Remember Solomon.
 - (a) But Israel fails to repent (Isaiah 9:13 KJV)
 - (b) Instead, they say we'll rebuild and fix the problem.
 - (c) As a result, God strengthens their enemies.
 - B. Has God been smiting our culture?
 1. 9/11 was a limited attack.
 - (a) The immediate response; church and "God Bless America"
 - (b) No true repentance. No real and lasting change.
 2. Currently, our nation is disintegrating.
 - (a) Our problems are never just political.
 - (b) They have spiritual roots.
 - (c) Politics alone will never solve our problems.
 - (d) The spiritual solution is repentance, turning back to God.
 - C. When God brings correction there is a window of opportunity.
 1. Will America turn back to God?
 - (a) If it does, it will be led by the Church.
 - (b) Repentance begins with the house of God, with us!
 - D. The Return: a call for national repentance (thereturn.org)
 1. A solemn assembly on the national mall on September 26th.
 2. Days of repentance and prayer from 9/18 to 9/28.
 3. What will the Church in America do? What will you do?

