

First Things

Priorities in the Christian Life

02.11.18 | Community

Exodus 17:8-13

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8 The Amalekites came and attacked the Israelites at Rephidim. 9 Moses said to Joshua, “Choose some of our men and go out to fight the Amalekites. Tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hands.” 10 So Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered, and Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill. 11 As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. 12 When Moses’ hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side, one on the other—so

that his hands remained steady till sunset. 13 So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword.

Exodus 17:7

And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the Lord saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

Massah: place of testing

Meribah: place of strife

“The idea of salvation cannot be reduced to a personal relationship with Jesus. God's plan is much more encompassing. God intends for salvation to be a community-creating event.”

- Joseph H. Hellerman, *When the Church Was a Family: Recapturing Jesus' Vision for Authentic Christian Community*

“The whole is greater than the sum of its parts.”

- Aristotle

Galatians 6:2

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Koinonia: fellowship

Acts 2:42

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

“The church is constituted as a new people who have been gathered from the nations to remind the world that we are in fact one people. Gathering, therefore, is an eschatological act as it is the foretaste of the unity of the communion of the saints.”

- Stanley Hauerwas, *In Good Company: The Church as Polis*

Exodus 17:15

Moses built an altar and called it The Lord is my Banner.