

Hymns: 37 Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing 58 Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me  
Scripture: Psalm 62:1-8 Psalm 95

Sometimes life just isn't fair. Take this baseball player:

- He exceeded Ty Cobb's lifetime hits record
- He played more games than any other player
- He batted more times
- And had more seasons with 200 hits or higher

With a lifetime batting average of .303, “Charlie Hustle” as he was called, was a shoe-in for the the Baseball Hall of Fame. But in 1989, he was banned from Major League Baseball because of his gambling activities. Many bemoan this action as too harsh a penalty, but the decision stands, and one of baseball's greatest players remains an outcast.

Now, I cannot say whether or not this decision made against Pete Rose was just. Many believe it was one of the most **unfair actions** ever taken against an athlete. I **can** tell you that life has it's share of circumstances that often look and feel very unfair. We're going to follow this thought through a little further today as we dig deeper into why God could not let Moses lead his people into the Promised Land.

### Review

We're working through our study of key Bible events. We covered the most important event – the resurrection of Jesus Christ. You may remember the time before last that we began our look into the Jews going into the Promised Land. We learned that the Promised Land was granted with the oldest and surest deed. We also learned it's location spanned from the eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea through the Jordan River valley.

Last time, we examined the life of Moses who led the Jews *to* but **not** *into* the Promised Land. In Deuteronomy 34 we read that **when** Moses died at 120 years of age, the Lord Himself buried him.

*[10] And there arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses,  
whom the LORD knew face to face,*

*[11] In all the signs and the wonders, which the LORD sent him to do in the land of Egypt to  
Pharaoh, and*

*to all his servants, and*

*to all his land,*

*[12] And in all that mighty hand, and*

*in all the great terror which Moses shewed*

*in the sight of all Israel.*

Yet God shut him out from leading Israel into the Promised Land.

Numbers 20

*[12] And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron,*

*Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall **not** bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.*

With that background, we'll press on to construct the case that completes the answer to the question of why Moses could not lead his people into the Promised Land. Let's get started.

### Why Outline

We're going to use an outline format today to keep things more organized.

1. Moses lacked faith – we covered that last time and reviewed that statement in the verse we just read.

God said it was because of his lack of faith “**ye believed me not,**” yet if we look at the Heroes of Faith in Hebrews chapter 11, we read the following about Moses' faith:

*[23] **By faith** Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, ...*  
*[24] **By faith** Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;*  
*[25] **Choosing** rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, ...*  
*[27] **By faith he forsook Egypt,** ...*  
*[28] **Through faith** he kept the passover, ...*  
*[29] **By faith** they passed through the Red sea as by dry land: ...*

This account of faith in this key passage is second in length only to that of **Mr. Faith himself** “faithful Abraham,” so to say that Moses was unfaithful or not a man of faith is simply not true. What we **can say** is that Moses had a lapse of faith when it came to the Lord's command **for him** to **speak** to the rock.

2. God uses Old Testament events and people **as examples** (I Corinthians 10:11) to teach us His truth .

You may recall from last time we looked at a couple:

- a. Rock → Jesus Christ (I Corinthians 10:6)
- b. Striking the Rock → Jesus Christ stricken and smitten (on the cross) for us.

We have four more to go.

- c. Water from the Rock → Eternal Life

To understand this symbol, we turn to John 4 where we find the familiar story of the woman at the well. You remember Jesus went to Samaria, sat on Jacob's well at midday, and asked a woman of Samaria to give Him a drink.

*[9] Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that **thou**, being*

*a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.*

*[10] Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest **the gift of God**,*

Of course, John chapter 3 teaches that the **gift of God** is eternal life.

*and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink;*

Clearly, the only source of eternal life is Jesus Christ.

*thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee **living water**.*

The Bible says that when we turn to the Lord Jesus Christ in faith He will give all who receive Him the gift of eternal life.

*[11] The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that **living water**?*

*[12] Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle?*

The answer to her question of course (and he could have come back with a really strong one) is that Jesus **is far** greater than Jacob. He is **God** – The Great **I AM**. But Jesus kept His focus on the gift of living water.

*[13] Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this **water** shall thirst again:*

*[14] But whosoever drinketh of the **water** that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the **water** that I shall give him shall be in him a **well of water springing up into everlasting life**.*

*[15] The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this **water**, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.*

Note how the woman remains stuck on the *physical* level while Jesus speaks to her on a *spiritual* level. So much of that happens in the Book of John by the way.

You may also remember that when we looked at the topic of heaven a few months ago, we saw the water of life there flowing out of the throne of God (Revelation 22:1).

Revelation 21

*[6] And he [that is, Jesus Christ] said unto me, It is done. **I am** Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of **the fountain of the water of life** freely.*

We've covered three symbols:

1. The Rock
2. Striking of the Rock
3. Water from the Rock

d. Moses → Law

Moses (usually) represents the law, the commandments given to him at Mount Sinai and associated writings. A proximity search of the Bible yields **73 passages** where the words *Moses* and *law* (referring to the commandments) coexist. Moses, like **no other person**, is associated with God's law.

e. Hagar and Sarah → Two covenants

Galatians 4

*[22] For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one [Ishmael] by a bondmaid [Hagar], the other [Isaac] by a freewoman [Sarah].*

*[23] But **he** who was of the bondwoman was **born after the flesh**; but **he** of the freewoman was **by promise**.*

*[24] **Which things are an allegory:***

Again we see that God uses people and their deeds as object lessons for us:

*for these are **the two covenants**; the one from the **mount Sinai**, which gendereth **to bondage**, which is Agar [Hagar].*

Mount Sinai of course is where the law was given to Moses. Moses and the law are associated here with bondage.

*[28] Now **we**, brethren, as Isaac was, **are the children of promise**.*

*[30] Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman **shall not be heir** with the son of the freewoman.*

The bondwoman's son will **not** receive the inheritance – including the Promised Land. This is reserved for the children of promise.

So there are five symbols:

1. The Rock
2. Striking the Rock
3. Water from the Rock
4. Moses himself
5. Hagar and Sarah

f. There's one more we want to look at today, but we'll save that for later.

We've covered two key points so far, Moses' lapse of faith and God's use of object lessons. Key point number three is:

3. God demands perfection – that's His unbending standard

To fail in **one point** is to have **failed** to keep His law.

James 2

*[10] For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and **yet offend in one point**, he is guilty of all.*

4. Man cannot achieve perfection through the law

God demands perfection for those who wish to enter into his rest. Moses failed in this one point. He could not live up to God's **perfect standard** and neither can we.

Galatians 3

*[10] For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth **not in all things** which are written in the book of the law to do them.*

*[11] But **that no man** is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, **The just shall live by faith.***

*[12] And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them.*

*[13] Christ hath redeemed us from **the curse of the law**, being made a **curse for us**: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:*

As we learned last time, the Rock was stricken and smitten.

*[17] And this I say, that the **covenant**, that was confirmed **before** of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years **after**, cannot disannul, that it should make **the promise** of none effect.*

It's interesting to note here that what we refer to as the new covenant technically **predates** the old covenant.

*[18] For **if the inheritance** be of the **law**, it is no more of **promise**: but God gave it to Abraham **by promise.***

*[21] Is the law then against the **promises** of God? God forbid: for if there had been a **law** given which **could** have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the **law.***

*[22] But the scripture hath concluded **all** under sin, that the **promise by faith of Jesus Christ** might be given [to whom?] to them that believe.*

That leads us to point number five as we just read.

5. Perfection can be achieved only through the Savior.

Romans 8

*[3] For what **the law could not do**, in that it was **weak** through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:*

Romans 10

*[4] For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.*

Earlier we deferred covering one symbol or allegory. Now we're ready to examine it. The key to this puzzle about Moses comes by asking a very simple question.

1. Who **did** lead the Israelites into the Promised Land?  
Joshua.
2. What does the name Joshua mean?  
Jehovah Saves or Savior
3. What is the Greek form of the Hebrew word that we in English pronounce as *Joshua*?  
The English pronunciation of the Greek word is *Jesus*

Can you imagine, someone whose name is **Jesus** leading the Jews into the Promised Land? – not the man that represents the law, not Moses. God couldn't let that happen. It had to be the Savior. Moses could not go into the Promised Land because God could not have Moses, the symbol of the **law**, lead Israel there.

By contrast, Joshua represents Christ. Joshua was victorious not because Israel was strong but only because God fought the battles for them and won the victory as they trusted Him. As we learned, Jehovah alone saves. The law cannot save.

God's purposes must take priority above our desires and longings. In the case of Moses, God knew Moses would fail and had foreordained it. Of course, Moses is among the just, but as a representative of the law the symbolism was too compelling for Moses to lead his people to their rest – for that only the Savior would do.

We get a better idea of the contrast between Moses and Jesus Christ in the following passages:

John 1

*[14] And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) **full of grace and truth.***

*[17] For the **law was given by Moses,**  
but **grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.***

Hebrews 3

*[1] Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, **Christ Jesus;***

*[2] **Who was faithful** to him that appointed him, **as also Moses was faithful in all his house.***

*[3] For this man [Christ Jesus] was counted worthy of **more glory than Moses,** inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house.*

*[4] For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God.*

There's a reference to Christ's diety.

*[5] And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after;*

Moses faithfully what God gave him to write.

*[6] But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house [we are] are we, ...*

### **Application**

We started today considering fairness.

A man came, did nothing wrong, was wrongfully tried and convicted, was beaten, tortured, and finally died. He did this not for himself but for someone else. He took the penalty that someone else deserved.

God sent His Son to the cross to die for undeserving sinners like you and me. As great as Moses was, He was not good enough to make it to the Promised Land. He fell short (as we all do in our own righteousness). He missed the mark and stayed outside of God's rest.

Our Savior satisfied God's perfect standard for us. As a result, God will work in us and give His children **abundantly greater** blessings than we deserve. Is that fair? In a worldly view no. But we praise God for His great grace, mercy, and goodness toward us in this world and in the world to come.

### **Benediction**

*Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think,  
according to the power that worketh in us,  
Unto him be glory  
in the church  
by Christ Jesus  
throughout all ages,  
world without end. Amen. (Ephesians 3:20-12)*