



Chapter 8

Stealing God's Glory by Striking the Rock

Reflections to Journal and Share

- What did you learn about God in this encounter? About human nature?
- Who is getting the glory in your life? In everything you say and do, does it all point to God, or does some of it point back to you?
- Do you tend to take some of the credit for those gifts, abilities and capacities that God has entrusted to you, the purpose of which is to glorify (accurately reveal and portray) Him in your life for others to see? When people comment on your life and ministry in favorable ways, who is getting the glory?
- Are we using God-honoring and God-glorifying methods in pursuit of Kingdom results? Are we doing the Lord's work the Lord's way? Looking through the rearview mirror of your life, can you now see instances where God might have blessed your results even though you realized (perhaps much later) He was not condoning your methods?
- Just because Jesus called us to do something one way "yesterday" does not necessarily mean He will call us to do the same thing the same way today. Have you any examples in your own life that illustrate this reality?
- Do we regularly confess before our Holy God that we have once again acted like Moses and stolen His glory?
- What challenges you most in this chapter? What did you hear the Spirit whisper to you as you journeyed through this chapter?

A Point to Ponder

Looking back at these Israelites in the wilderness, we realize we always have two choices before us – to grumble or to be grateful. Where we decide to put our emphasis depends on whether we take time to remember who God is, how He does things, what He cares about, and to adequately review the history of our lives within the continual care of His providence. Anytime we fail to remember God's faithfulness to us, we quickly lose our perspective along with any sense of gratitude. When that happens, doubt, anxiety and dissatisfaction begin to move into the vacuum created by gratitude's departure.

There is a reason God made remembering the predominate theme of His Word, occurring some 250 times in Scripture. God, who made us and knows us perfectly, knows that unless we take time to remember who He is and how He does things, we will shortly forget and will end up compromising His glory. Note that by grumbling the Israelites not only stole God's glory, but also pressured Moses to stumble and commit a rash act that also stole God's glory. Grumbling has a way of affecting others, even compromising our leaders.

Remember Paul's challenge to the Corinthians: What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why did you boast as though you did not? That is a reminder that we do nothing on our own, accomplish nothing on our own, and have nothing of our own. All of it proceeds from God's hand – ALL of it.

What would our church conversations be like if we banned the use of the personal pronouns I, my, and me for six months. Instead, we always substituted He, His, and Him as we start to detox ourselves from the self-centeredness of pointing too much to ourselves and too little to Him. John the Baptist summarized our collective challenge: *He must become greater, I must become less.*