

It was an incredible feeling! I stepped back and admired my handiwork! I was another Moses, for I had brought forth water from the rock! There, extending out of the concrete block foundation of the house, was a faucet where there had not been one before. And when you turned the handle, Behold! Water flowed forth!

As you might expect, this is quite an exaggeration. But there was a silly little thought that ran through my brain, that this was something like Moses felt.

*"I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink." So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel.*

*Exodus 17:6*

There was Moses in the desert with thousands of thirsty people, and the Lord provided him with the power to satisfy them. Suddenly water was pouring forth where it had been dry and dusty rock a moment before.

My friend's house had only one outside water spigot, and it was on the opposite side of the house from where it was needed to help water the garden. So, I volunteered to put another one in, even though I am certainly no plumber. My disastrous efforts in this area are actually somewhat legendary, as in the case of the washing machine story. But I must tell that one another time!

I made as many preparations as I could beforehand. I measured the PCV pipe, cut the desired lengths, and glued them all together with the elbow joints. Then I had to take the 'tee' and other parts under the house to connect to the main line. There is an awesome responsibility that you feel when you cut someone's water off and break the line, not having total confidence that you can put it all back together again. I ended up having to crawl under the house from one end to the other at least five times to get everything right and check for leaks after the job was done. My stomach muscles were sore for three days!

But there was a feeling of power when I first turned that faucet on! I thought I had really done something. But I was certainly no Moses. I remembered, too, that Moses thought a little too much of what he had done the second time he brought water from the rock.

*The LORD said to Moses, "Take the staff, and you and your brother Aaron gather the assembly together. **Speak** to that rock before their eyes and it will pour out its water. You will bring water out of the rock for the community so they and their livestock can drink." So Moses took the staff from the Lord's presence, just as he commanded him. He and Aaron gathered the assembly together in front of the rock and Moses said to them, "Listen, you rebels, must **we** bring you water out of this rock?" Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with his staff. Water gushed out, and the community and their livestock drank. But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them."*

*Numbers 20:7-12*

Moses struck the rock (twice) instead of speaking to it as God told him to do. And he acted like he and Aaron were the ones who had the power to do this. The interesting thing is that even though Moses disobeyed, God still brought the people the water that they were so desperate for.

Just because something good happens in our work, it doesn't mean that we are very special. God gives us the power to work and accomplish things, like put in a water faucet. But we must not get the big head! God also can fulfill his purpose with or without our help. We simply must give the glory to God, even in the smallest of things.

*I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.*

*1 Corinthians 3:6-7*