

Pastor Dave Rohde

For Sunday, July 28th
"What's in your hand?"

1 Corinthians 12:4-11 – *NIV*

⁴ There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. ⁵ There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶ There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸ To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

Exodus 17:1-7 – *NIV*

The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² So they quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink."

Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the Lord to the test?"

³ But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?"

⁴ Then Moses cried out to the Lord, "What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me."

⁵ The Lord answered Moses, "Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶ 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. 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?"

- **Crisis and Provision (again) — Ex. 17:1-4**
- **Moses' Obedience (again) — Ex. 17:5-16a**
- **Ordinary Gift, Extraordinary Act - Ex. 16b-17:7**

Takeaway: Sometimes, the resources we need are right in our hands.

Questions:

1. Can you think of a time when you had to be particularly creative or resourceful to solve a problem? What did you do?
2. God reminds Moses of the staff in his hand multiple times in Exodus. What are some of the "staves" (gifts, skills, talents, resources) you are holding? How have you used them in the past? What are some of the "staves" that WPC holds collectively?
3. Pastor Dave said that "more often than not innovation is found in times of scarcity, in the wilderness, not necessarily in times of abundance." Do you agree or disagree? Can you think of examples of innovation coming in times of plenty and in want?
4. What biblical example of stewardship and resourcefulness resonates with you most? Why?

Sermon: <https://podcast.wpcwestlake.org/services/mp3/sermon20240728.mp3>

Service Video: <https://youtu.be/wNPCFjfz7PE>