

# Numbers 27:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For ye rebelled against my commandment in the desert of Zin, in the strife of the congregation, to sanctify me at the water before their eyes: that is the water of Meribah in Kadesh in the wilderness of Zin.

## Analysis

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God reminded Moses why he couldn't enter: 'ye rebelled against my commandment in the desert of Zin... to sanctify me at the water before their eyes.' Moses' striking the rock (20:7-12) instead of speaking to it failed to honor God properly before Israel. Leaders' public failures matter more because they teach wrong lessons about God. Representation of God's character is weighty responsibility.

## Historical Context

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This explanation appears multiple times (20:12, Deuteronomy 3:23-27, 32:51, Psalm 106:32-33), demonstrating its importance as lesson for all leaders. Moses' moment of anger cost him personal fulfillment of lifelong mission. One failure, even by a great saint, can have lasting consequences.

## Related Passages

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**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How does your conduct as a Christian affect others' understanding of God's character?
2. What responsibility do spiritual leaders bear for accurately representing God in word and deed?

## Interlinear Text

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בְּאֶשֶׁר H834	מִרִּיבָהּ מִ H4784	פִּי י H6310	מִדְבַּר H4057	זִין: H6790
	For ye rebelled	against my commandment	in the desert	of Zin
בְּמִרִּיבָהּ H4808	הָעֵדָה H5712	לְהַקְדִּישׁ נִי H6942	מִי H4325	לְעֵינֵיהֶם H5869
in the strife	of the congregation	to sanctify	me at the water	before their eyes
הֵם H1992	מִי H4325	מִרִּיבַת H4809	קֶדֶשׁ H6946	מִדְבַּר H4057
	me at the water	of Meribah	in Kadesh	in the desert
				of Zin H6790

## Additional Cross-References

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**Deuteronomy 1:37** (Parallel theme): Also the LORD was angry with me for your sakes, saying, Thou also shalt not go in thither.

**Exodus 17:7** (Parallel theme): And he called the name of the place Massah, and Meribah, because of the chiding of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the LORD, saying, Is the LORD among us, or not?

**Numbers 20:24** (Word): Aaron shall be gathered unto his people: for he shall not enter into the land which I have given unto the children of Israel, because ye rebelled against my word at the water of Meribah.

**Numbers 20:1** (Parallel theme): Then came the children of Israel, even the whole congregation, into the desert of Zin in the first month: and the people abode in Kadesh; and Miriam died there, and was buried there.

