



So Many Rocks!

He split the rocks in the wilderness and gave them water as abundant as the seas... - Psalm 78:15

Lots of rocks but we still need more Reading Mentors...

My feet had been a little soar lately, so

I thought it would be therapeutic to take my shoes off and do a little walking on the sandy seashore right here in beautiful Ventura County. But when I got to Ventura Pier I couldn't believe my eyes: **SO MANY ROCKS!** Have you seen them lately? There were large rocks everywhere in both directions up and down the coastline - washed ashore by the violent El Niño storm waves that damaged the end of the pier recently and left it closed off to the public. The beach, itself, was still open to the public, but there was (is) virtually no sandy shore left to walk on; the soft wet sands have been displaced by a sharp stony surface at every step!

Needless to say I got no foot therapy that day. **Life disappoints us when our way turns hard and rocky.** Right now it has been difficult to get volunteers for our Tuesday Reading Mentoring, so helping the community kids has been a challenge lately.

But rocks, as everything else in this world, are *God's* rocks! The Promised Land is still to this day filled with many, many rocks everywhere you go. God uses rocks in our lives to toughen us up. He doesn't always pad our paths with feather beds to soften up the soles of our feet. And the metaphorical rocky paths in our lives toughen up the souls of God's children, so that we grow stronger and more able to resist the cushy comforts of temptation - temptation to take it easy all the time and take the path of least resistance. But God never allows us to be tempted beyond what we can endure (1 Corinthians 10:13). God is able to tap the rocks in a dry desert to gush forth water as abundant as the seas! Indeed, **God, Himself, is even called our Rock, our Refuge!** (Ps 18:2) Lent is a season of rocky paths, as we struggle with our own sin and repent of our lavish lifestyle of creaturely comforts, of seeking the easy way for ourselves far too often. Let us struggle together along life's rocky ways and turn our thoughts to what pleases our Lord, our Rock and our Redeemer.

Our Reading Mentors sacrifice an hour every Tuesday from 5pm-6pm in the Proverbs Coffeehouse. As we give of our time to this end may God grant us all insight into this eternal truth: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35).

- If you'd like to rotate in as a Reading Mentor come Tuesdays or contact Deacon Mike