

Grumbling Against the Lord

Philippians 2:14

“Do everything without complaining
or arguing”

Things that we want but do not possess

- Material Goods?
- Achievements?
- Relationships?
- Justice?

Why Do We Grumble?

- Discontentment
- Outright contempt for God

Lack of Faith

- The 12 Spies (Num 13 & 14)
- “All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, ‘If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this desert!’” (Num 14:2)
- “If the Lord is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. Only do not rebel against the Lord...” (Joshua & Caleb - v 8,9)
- “The Lord said to Moses, ‘How long will these people treat me with contempt? How long will they refuse to believe in me, in spite of all the miraculous signs I have performed among them.’” (v 11)

Impatience with God

- No straw for making bricks (Exodus 5):
“When they left Pharaoh, they found Moses and Aaron waiting to meet them, and they said, ‘May the Lord look upon you and judge you! You have made us a stench to Pharaoh and his officials and have put a sword in their hand to kill us.’ ” (v 20,21)
- Moses grumbled, just after his first trip to the Pharaoh:
“Moses returned to the Lord and said, ‘O lord, why have you brought trouble upon this people? Is this why you sent me? Ever since I went to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has brought trouble upon this people, and you have not rescued your people at all.’ ” (v 22,23)

Our Needs Not Met

- The Waters of Marah and Elim (Exodus 15)
- “...they traveled the desert without finding water. When they came to Marah, they could not drink its water because it was bitter...So the people grumbled.” (v 22-24)
- Manna in the Desert of Sin (Exodus 16)
- “ ‘If only we had died by the Lord’s hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve the entire assembly to death.’ ”(v 2,3)
- “The Lord said to Moses, ‘I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, at twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God.’ ”(v 11,12)

Preoccupation With Small Things

- Jesus at Martha's house (Luke 10:40-42)

“But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, ‘Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!’

‘Martha, Martha,’ the Lord answered, ‘you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.’”

Grumbling Is Destructive

- Paul: Don't be like our forefathers!
- “For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under that cloud and that they all passed through the sea.” (1 Cor 10:1).
- “Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered over the desert.” (v 5)
- “We should not test the Lord, as some of them did – and were killed by snakes. And do not grumble as some of them did – and were killed by the destroying angel. These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come.” (v 9-11)

So Much to be Thankful For

- We can ask God for everything
“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgivings, present your requests to God.” (Phi 4:6)
- We are no more servants of sin
“But thanks be to God, that though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted.” (Ro 6:17)
- We have the peace of God
“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.” (Col 3:15)

Our Attitudes Count

- Grumbling is an indication of dissatisfaction with God.
- Thankfulness is an indication of gratitude to God.
- We should abound with thanksgiving
Col 2:6,7