

Complaining Quit – Part 2 February 19, 2017

Genesis 3:12 (NIV) *“The man said, ‘The woman You put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.’ ”*

Job 10:1 (NIV) *“I loathe my very life; therefore I will give free rein to my complaint and speak out in the bitterness of my soul.”*

Exodus 16:2-4 (NIV) *“In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. ³ The Israelites said to them, ‘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 this entire assembly to death.’ ⁴ Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow My instructions.’ ”*

Numbers 11:4-6 (NIV) *“The rabble with them began to crave other food, and again the Israelites started wailing and said, ‘If only we had meat to eat! ⁵ We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost—also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic. ⁶ But now we have lost our appetite; we never see anything but this manna!’ ”*

Numbers 11:23 (NIV) *“The Lord answered Moses, ‘Is the Lord’s arm too short? Now you will see whether or not what I say will come true for you.’ ”*

The Cost Of Complaining

1. Complaining offends the heart of God.

Numbers 11:1 (NIV) *“Now the people complained about their hardships in the hearing of the Lord, and when He heard them His anger was aroused. Then fire from the Lord burned among them and consumed some of the outskirts of the camp.”*

Exodus 16:8 (NIV) *“Moses also said, ‘You will know that it was the Lord when He gives you meat to eat in the evening and all the bread you want in the morning, because He has heard your grumbling against Him. Who are we? You are not grumbling against us, but against the Lord.’ ”*

2. Complaining carries significant consequences.

Numbers 14:2-3 (NIV) *“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 wilderness! ³ Why is the Lord bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn’t it be better for us to go back to Egypt?’ ”*

Numbers 14:27-30 (NIV) *“How long will this wicked community grumble against Me? I have heard the complaints of these grumbling Israelites. ²⁸ So tell them, ‘As surely as I live, declares the Lord, I will do to you the very thing I heard you say: ²⁹ In this wilderness your bodies will fall—every one of you twenty years old or more who was counted in the census and who has grumbled against Me. ³⁰ Not one of you will enter the land I swore with uplifted hand to make your home, except Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun.”*

Restraining Our Complaining...

- **What? Do not complain.**

Philippians 2:14 (NIV) *“Do everything without grumbling or arguing.”*

Ephesians 4:29 (NIV) *“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”*

- **Why? So, we can become more like Christ.**

Philippians 2:14-15a (NIV) *“Do everything without grumbling or arguing, ¹⁵ so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.”*

Luke 6:45 (NIV) *“A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.”*

- **How? Choose to rejoice no matter what.**

Philippians 2:17-18 (NIV) *“But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. ¹⁸ So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.”*

Galatians 2:20a (NIV) *“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.”*