

Numbers 11 - Now The People Complained

Now the people complained

Num 11:1-35 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. 2 When **the people cried out to Moses, he prayed to the LORD and the fire died down.** 3 So that place was called **Taberah**, because fire from the LORD had burned among them.

THEME: **The people complained / The LORD became angry / Moses interceded for them**

The LORD was angry - fire burned among them and consumed some

Similar(Nadab and Abihu) **Do we realize how much complaining bothers the LORD**

- 1Co 10:10 NIV And do not ***grumble***, as some of them did--and were killed by the destroying angel.

Nature and effects of complaining

Complaining can be contagious

- 4 The rabble with them **began to crave other food**, and again the Israelites **started wailing**

It distorts reality - somehow they think having meat will solve all their problems

- 4 and said, "**If only**" we had meat to eat!

Complaining leads to selective memory

- 5 "**We remember**" the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost--also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic.
- **They forgot the place they had come from** (Exo 2:23 The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God.)

Complaining robs us of a grateful heart for the things we DO have - manna was a miracle

- 6 **But now** we have lost our appetite; **we never** see anything but this manna!"

Complaining became widespread and affected everyone

- Vs 10 Moses heard **the people of every family wailing** at the entrance to their tents. **The LORD became exceedingly angry**, and Moses was troubled.

Stanford Study:

- Repeated complaining rewires your brain - complaining becomes your default behavior
- Complaining shrinks the hippocampus—an area of the brain that's critical to problem solving and intelligent thought...it is also one of the primary brain areas destroyed by Alzheimer's.
- When you complain, your body releases the stress hormone cortisol. One effect of cortisol, is to raise your blood pressure and blood sugar so that you'll be prepared to either escape or defend yourself.
- All the extra cortisol released by frequent complaining impairs your immune system and makes you more susceptible to high cholesterol, diabetes, heart disease, and obesity. It even makes the brain more vulnerable to strokes.¹

¹ <http://www.talentsmart.com/articles/How-Complaining-Rewires-Your-Brain-for-Negativity-2147446676-p-1.html>

What if we got our way all the time?

- 18 "Tell the people: 'Consecrate yourselves in preparation for tomorrow, when you will eat meat. **The LORD heard you when you wailed**, "If only we had meat to eat! We were better off in Egypt!" Now **the LORD will give you meat**, and you will eat it. 19 You will not eat it for just one day, or two days, or five, ten or twenty days, 20 but for a whole month--**until it comes out of your nostrils and you loathe it**--because **you have rejected the LORD, who is among you**, and have wailed before him, saying, "Why did we ever leave Egypt?""

Love can turn to loathing and even hatred

- Psa 106:15 KJV And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul.
- What we think we want, we may one day loathe - 1 Sam 15 - Amnon and Tamar

God saw their complaining as A REJECTION OF HIM - who is AMONG YOU

- How do you view complaining?
- Maybe we should take it more seriously

Kibroth Hattaavah - the graves of craving

30 Then Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp. 31 Now a wind went out from the LORD and drove quail in from the sea. It scattered them up to **two cubits deep all around the camp**, as far as a day's walk in any direction. 32 All that day and night and all the next day the people went out and gathered quail. No one gathered less than ten homers. Then they spread them out all around the camp. 33 **But while the meat was still between their teeth and before it could be consumed, the anger of the LORD burned against the people, and he struck them with a severe plague.** 34 Therefore the place was named Kibroth Hattaavah, because there they buried the people who had craved other food. 35 From Kibroth Hattaavah the people traveled to Hazeroth and stayed there.

10 homers = 580 gallons - enough to fill the bed of a full sized pickup truck to overflowing

- Roughly 1900 birds for each man, weighing about 475 pounds
- x 600,000 men = 1.14 Billion birds
- These 600,000 men would have had to cover 3195 acres bird corpses laid side by side.
- If you laid these birds beak to tail they would go around the earth five times.
- And the bible tells us they did it all in a day and night!

What if I am a complainer?

- First stop complaining to other people - you are adversely affecting their life and health
- Get a grip on reality - They wanted to go back to Egypt - but when they were there they couldn't wait to get out...
- Practice a heart of gratefulness - be thankful for what you have rather than always craving for things you don't
- Ask the LORD to help you see your complaining the way He sees it
 - It angers Him
 - He sees it as a rejection of Him
 - He has either given or has allowed you current situation
 - Manna was a blessing - but they despised it

In the end - most of us complain at some point...thank God we have an intercessor in Jesus

2 When **the people cried out to Moses, he prayed to the LORD and the fire died down.**

- Moses prayed -- The fire died down

Rom 8:34-39 NIV Christ Jesus who died--more than that, who was raised to life--is at the right hand of God ***and is also interceding for us.*** 35 **Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?** Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36 As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Heb 7:24-25 NIV but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. 25 Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, **because he always lives to intercede for them.**

Isa 53:12 NIV Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. **For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.**