

1 CORINTHIANS: LESSON 21

Chapter 10: What Does the Lord Think About Murmuring?

10 November 2017

In verses 1-13 Paul gives the Corinthian church a history lesson about the Israelites. Though the children of Israel had been redeemed, had witnessed many miracles of God, and had been marvelously provided for on their journey, they yielded to some sinful practices and attitudes that God was not pleased with. It resulted in their ultimate downfall in the wilderness.

Paul's warning to Christians is that we are just as capable of falling into sin as the Israelites were. All men are inclined to wander from God. It requires prayer, self-denial, preaching, fellowship, rebuke, and correction to keep us on the Lord's side.

Verse 12 says, "**Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.**" We may get to a point where we feel that our faith is so strong that we'd never sin against God. It may be true that some sins would not ever entice you, but the sin of murmuring (Vs 10) is a sin that plagues us all. If you find yourself murmuring against God and the things of God, it reveals that you are capable of sinning against the Lord in other ways also. Murmuring shows your true heart condition; it shows you have a heart that is willing to sin against God.

THE SEVEN MURMURINGS OF THE ISRAELITES

- 1. EXODUS 15:23-25.** What are we going to drink out here in this desert?
A tree was cast in the bitter waters to make them sweet. We need to trust God to provide for our basic physical needs.

- 2. EXODUS 16:1-3.** We're going to die if we don't get food!
God provided them with manna from heaven.
Our flesh often causes us to forget about all the ways God has blessed us.
Remember how it affected Esau? (Gen. 25:29-34, Heb. 12:16).

- 3. EXODUS 17:1-4.** Give us water!
God provided water from the rock in Horeb.
When something went wrong, they blamed their leader, Moses, instead of asking God for what they needed.

- 4. NUMBERS 11:1.** General, unspecified complaining, which displeased the Lord.
The Lord was displeased, His anger was kindled, and many died by fire that day.

Today, even people who live in prosperity can still find something to complain about. There are even TV and radio programs that enable people to air their complaints to the world.

5. **NUMBERS 14:1-12** We're scared of the enemies! We want to go back to Egypt!
Their lack of faith and the subsequent complaining against God provoked Him to judge them with a sore pestilence and threaten to disinherit them.
God didn't let any of the murmurers enter the Promised Land.

6. **NUMBERS 16:41-49** We don't like the way Moses let God destroy Korah and the other discontented usurpers!
For this complaint, God took the lives of 14,700 people with a plague.
Notice the increased severity of the judgment. The more light (knowledge, understanding) you have received from God, the more He will expect you to obey it. If you don't, the penalties for disobedience will increase.

7. **NUMBERS 21:4** There is no bread, neither is there any water! They lied!
When people are discontent, they'll exaggerate (lie) about what they're complaining about.
The Lord sent fiery serpents to bite the people so that "**much people of Israel died**" (vs. 6).

CONCLUSION

God doesn't like complaining. When we complain, it is an insult to the Lord who saved us and who provides for us. Complaining is another symptom of selfishness.

There are so many things we could be talking about that would honor the Lord. If we'd focus on those things, we could avoid the murmuring and complaining.
