



SILENCING THE GRUMBLE

PROMISED LAND WEEK 12 | BRAD BEGGS

It's easy to spot a grumbler...until we are looking in the mirror.

1 Corinthians 10:6-11

Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.

Grumbling is a habitual expression of our distrust in God.

While it might seem like no big deal, grumbling will slowly drain the life out of us.

- Grumbling kills our joy. It robs us of the ability to be content in all circumstances.
- Grumbling kills our faith. It plants seeds of doubt about whether God is really good.
- Grumbling kills our trust. It convinces us that we know better than God.

I. Grumbling Begins Where Gratitude Ends

Exodus 15:22-25

Then Moses made Israel set out from the Red Sea, and they went into the wilderness of Shur. They went three days in the wilderness and found no water. When they came to Marah, they could not drink the water of Marah because it was bitter; therefore it was named Marah. And the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?" And he cried to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a log and he threw it into the water, and the water became sweet.

Psalm 106:9-14

[God] rebuked the Red Sea, and it dried up;
he led them through the depths as through a desert.
He saved them from the hand of the foe;
from the hand of the enemy he redeemed them.
The waters covered their adversaries;

not one of them survived.
Then they believed his promises
and sang his praise.
But they soon forgot what he had done
and did not wait for his plan to unfold.
In the desert they gave in to their craving;
in the wilderness they put God to the test.

II. Grumbling is Contagious

Numbers 11:4

The rabble with them began to crave other food, and again the Israelites started wailing and said, “If only we had meat to eat!

1 Corinthians 15:33

There are environments where you tend to complain more than others.
“Do not be deceived: Bad company corrupts good morals”.

III. Grumbling Exposes Distrust, Not Discomfort

Grumbling is a habitual expression of our distrust in God.

Grumbling gives voice to our doubt. It says...

- *God, I don't trust that your plan for us here is good.*
- *God, I don't trust that you'll provide.*
- *God, I don't trust that you know what you're doing.*

Exodus 16:2-6

And the whole congregation of the people of Israel **grumbled** against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, and the people of Israel said to them, “Would that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

The things we grumble about most might be where we trust God the least.

IV. Grumbling ultimately leads to rebellion

Exodus 16:8

And Moses said, “When the Lord gives you in the evening meat to eat and in the morning bread to the full, because the Lord has heard your grumbling that you grumble against him—what are we? Your grumbling is not against us but against the Lord.

Grumbling is an act of pride.

- It's saying: “God, I know better.
- You owe *me* an explanation.
- You owe *me* different circumstances.”

This is why Scripture treats grumbling so seriously – because it begins with quiet dissatisfaction but ends with a heart that resists God.

If grumbling really is rebellion – if it puts us in God’s place and calls Him to account...

What do we do with the real frustrations of life?

Hebrews 4:15

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

3 WAYS TO RESPOND TO GRUMBLING:

1. Draw near.

Hebrews 4:16

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

2. Pray (prayers of lament)

Grumbling looks back at what is broken and accuses God about it.

Lamenting looks back at what is broken and grieves it with God.

Groaning doesn’t look backward. It looks forward – it longs for things to be restored.

“A groan is one thing, a **grumble** is another. A groan says, “Oh God, this is really hard.” A grumble says, “Oh God, you are really hard” - Kevin DeYoung

Groaning sits in the brokenness and yearns deeply for God to move and restore it. And it’s a powerful way (through prayer) to respond to our grumbling.

3. Gratitude

Psalm 103:1

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits