

The High Cost of Grumbling

1 Corinthians 10:10

THE HIGH COST OF GRUMBLING!

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

- These aren't **stories** – they're **examples**.
- Don't grumble *as some of them did* and were **killed!**

HOW TO TURN A ROUGH YEAR INTO A MISERABLE LIFE:

Numbers 13-14

- Forget God's blessings.
Call God a liar – Criticize his leaders – whine about life in general.

SOME IMPORTANT DISTINCTIONS:

- It's OK to complain **to God** – It's not OK to complain **about God**.
Job 1:21 & 2:7-10/ Psalm 22:1 & Matthew 27:46
- It's OK to be **hating life** – It's not OK to **bail on God**.
Job 10:18-19 & 13:15
- Negativity is a **choice** – We can choose what we **focus on**.
Philippians 2:14; 1 Peter 4:9 & James 5:9/ Psalm 100:4; Colossians 4:2 & 1 Thessalonians 5:18

LESSONS FROM THE DESERT:

- ❶ Negativity breeds **fear** – Giving thanks breeds **faith**.
- ❷ Negativity **snowballs & spreads**.
- ❸ Negativity **repels**.
- ❹ Negativity is **self-fulfilling**.
- ❺ Negativity short-circuits **God's best**.
- ❻ Negativity **kills**.

Food for Thought

For the week of December 10, 2006

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. The Psalms are full of examples of David voicing his complaints to God. What can you learn from the following passages about what acceptable complaining to God looks like?

Psalm 6:1-10

For the director of music. With stringed instruments. According to sheminith. A psalm of David.

O Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger
or discipline me in your wrath.

[2] Be merciful to me, Lord, for I am faint;

O Lord, heal me, for my bones are in agony.

[3] My soul is in anguish.

How long, O Lord, how long?

[4] Turn, O Lord, and deliver me;
save me because of your unfailing love.

[5] No one remembers you when he is dead.

Who praises you from the grave?

[6] I am worn out from groaning;
all night long I flood my bed with weeping
and drench my couch with tears.

[7] My eyes grow weak with sorrow;
they fail because of all my foes.

[8] Away from me, all you who do evil,
for the Lord has heard my weeping.

[9] The Lord has heard my cry for mercy;
the Lord accepts my prayer.

[10] All my enemies will be ashamed and dismayed;
they will turn back in sudden disgrace. [NIV]

Psalm 13:1-4

For the director of music. A psalm of David.

How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

[2] How long must I wrestle with my thoughts
and every day have sorrow in my heart?

How long will my enemy triumph over me?

[3] Look on me and answer, O Lord my God.

Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death;

[4] my enemy will say, "I have overcome him,"
and my foes will rejoice when I fall. [NIV]

Psalm 142:1-7

A maskil of David. When he was in the cave. A prayer.

I cry aloud to the Lord;

I lift up my voice to the Lord for mercy.

[2] I pour out my complaint before him;
before him I tell my trouble.

[3] When my spirit grows faint within me,
it is you who know my way.

In the path where I walk
men have hidden a snare for me.

[4] Look to my right and see;
no one is concerned for me.

I have no refuge;

no one cares for my life.
[5] I cry to you, O Lord;
I say, "You are my refuge,
my portion in the land of the living."
[6] Listen to my cry,
for I am in desperate need;
rescue me from those who pursue me,
for they are too strong for me.
[7] Set me free from my prison,
that I may praise your name.
Then the righteous will gather about me
because of your goodness to me. [NIV]

2. Another example of the Israelites grumbling when things didn't go their way or they thought God wasn't meeting their needs is found in Numbers 11. As you read the chapter, look for how God responds to their complaining and the impact their negativity had on both Moses and their own lives.

God eventually gives them what they were complaining about. Why do you think He did that?

3. Often we grumble because we are too focused on what we don't have rather than on all the things God has provided for us. In Deuteronomy 8:6-18 God speaks to the Israelites about this. What insights do you see in this passage that could help you not take for granted what you have or get confused about how you got it?

Deuteronomy 8:6-18

Observe the commands of the Lord your God, walking in his ways and revering him. [7] For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land--a land with streams and pools of water, with springs flowing in the valleys and hills; [8] a land with wheat and barley, vines and fig trees, pomegranates, olive oil and honey; [9] a land where bread will not be scarce and you will lack nothing; a land where the rocks are iron and you can dig copper out of the hills.

[10] When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you. [11] Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day. [12] Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, [13] and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, [14] then your heart will become proud and you will forget the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. [15] He led you through the vast and dreadful desert, that thirsty and waterless land, with its venomous snakes and scorpions. He brought you water out of hard rock. [16] He gave you manna to eat in the desert, something your fathers had never known, to humble and to test you so that in the end it might go well with you. [17] You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." [18] But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today. [NIV]

How can you better incorporate remembering what God has provided and has done for you into your everyday life?

4. As you look at the list of lessons from the desert, where have you seen any of those truths about negativity show up in your own life or in lives of other people? What personal or relational impact have you experienced from your own or others' negativity?

What principle or insight from this week's sermon could help you more consistently to avoid negativity and to be thankful?