

Number 11:1-15 <sup>1</sup> And when the people complained, it displeased the LORD: and the LORD heard it; and his anger was kindled; and the fire of the LORD burnt among them, and consumed them that were in the uttermost parts of the camp. <sup>2</sup> And the people cried unto Moses; and when Moses prayed unto the LORD, the fire was quenched. <sup>3</sup> And he called the name of the place Taberah: because the fire of the LORD burnt among them. <sup>4</sup> And the mixt multitude that was among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat? <sup>5</sup> We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlick: <sup>6</sup> But now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes. <sup>7</sup> And the manna was as coriander seed, and the colour thereof as the colour of bdellium. <sup>8</sup> And the people went about, and gathered it and ground it in mills, or beat it in a mortar, and baked it in pans, and made cakes of it: and the taste of it was as the taste of fresh oil. <sup>9</sup> And when the dew fell upon the camp in the night, the manna fell upon it. <sup>10</sup> Then Moses heard the people weep throughout their families, every man in the door of his tent: and the anger of the LORD was kindled greatly; Moses also was displeased. <sup>11</sup> And Moses said unto the LORD, Wherefore hast thou afflicted thy servant? and wherefore have I not found favour in thy sight, that thou layest the burden of all this people upon me? <sup>12</sup> Have I conceived all this people? have I begotten them, that thou shouldest say unto me, Carry them in thy bosom, as a nursing father beareth the sucking child, unto the land which thou swarest unto their fathers? <sup>13</sup> Whence should I have flesh to give unto all this people? for they weep unto me, saying, Give us flesh, that we may eat. <sup>14</sup> I am not able to bear all this people alone, because it is too heavy for me. <sup>15</sup> And if thou deal thus with me, kill me, I pray thee, out of hand, if I have found favour in thy sight; and let me not see my wretchedness.

## 1. Introduction

- a. Easy to find something to complain about
- b. Complaining causes negative effects on spiritual life
- c. Context: Number 11 (entire chapter)

## 2. Complaining Bothers God (verses 1, 10)

- a. Children of Israel's complaining displeased God
- b. Christian thinks that he is wiser than God when he complains

*Philippians 2:14-15 Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;*

- c. God wants Christian life filled with thanksgiving
  - 1 Thessalonians 5:18 In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*
- 3. Complaining Burdens Our Leaders (verses 2, 10-11, 13-14)
  - a. Moses complained about carrying the burden of leading the people
    - i. Children of Israel cried about God's judgment of fire
    - ii. Mixed multitude of people cried about no meat in their diet
  - b. Moses cried to God about not having meat to give to the people
- 4. Complaining Blinds Christian to the Miraculous
  - a. Fantasy in minds of mixed multitude
    - i. All foods freely eaten in Egypt
    - ii. Meats, vegetables, & spices
  - b. Reality of situation in Egypt
    - i. Slaves in bondage in Egypt
      - Exodus 2:23 And it came to pass in process of time, that the king of Egypt died: and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage.*
    - ii. God saw their affliction, crying, & sorrows
      - Exodus 3:7 And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;*
  - c. Moses & mixed multitude acted like no miracles had happened
    - i. God's appearance to Moses at burning bush
    - ii. Ten plagues upon Egypt
    - iii. Parting of Red Sea & protection from Egyptian army
- 5. Complaining Brings God's Judgments (verses 18-20)
  - a. Their complaint about having no meat
    - i. God warned them that they would not like the results
    - ii. God gave them what they wanted for 30 days
    - iii. Smallest amount collected was 480 pounds of meat
    - iv. Anyone eating of the quail meat died in a plague

- b. But God continued to provide manna from heaven (7-9)
  - i. God provided manna to them beginning 2<sup>nd</sup> month of their departure from Egypt (Exodus 16:1)
 

*Exo 16:35 And the children of Israel did eat manna forty years, until they came to a land inhabited; they did eat manna, until they came unto the borders of the land of Canaan.*
  - ii. Many chose to eat manna & some chose to eat quail
  - iii. Anyone eating manna for food was not struck down in the plague

## 6. Complaining Breeds Doubt in God's Ability (verses 21-23)

- a. Complaining comes naturally to man
- b. Multitude's complaints influenced Moses to doubt God's power
- c. Moses could not see what God could do
  - i. Moses told God that he had minimum of 600,000 men (not including women & children)
  - ii. Moses implied that not enough animals in their herds to feed entire multitude
  - iii. God asked Moses to think about God's power & ability to perform
- d. When Christian forgets God's past actions, that causes them to doubt God's future ability to perform

## 7. Antidote to Complaining

- a. Contentment in every situation is learned
 

*Philippians 4:11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.*

*1 Timothy 6:6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.*
- b. God will supply all of your basic needs
 

*1 Timothy 6:8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.*

*Luke 12:22-23 <sup>22</sup> And he said unto his disciples, Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on. <sup>23</sup> The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment.*
- c. No need to worry when you can pray to God for your needs
 

*Philippians 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.*
- d. Come to God with a glad heart, singing & praising God with thanksgiving
 

*Psalms 100:2, 4 <sup>2</sup> Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. ... <sup>4</sup> Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.*

- e. Contentment & thanksgiving is God's solution for worrying
- f. Thanking God for His past blessings gives us faith in God's future actions

## 8. Conclusion

- a. God gives free gifts to all

*Romans 11:29 For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.*

*Matthew 5:45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.*

- b. God wants a thankful people

*Psalm 107:22 And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing.*

*Psalm 116:17 I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the LORD.*