

Cultivating a Thankful Heart

Philippians 2:12-14

“Turning complaints
into prayers”



“Keep your heart with all vigilance,
for from it flow the springs of life.”

Proverbs 4:23 ESV

Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

Philippians 2:14–15 ESV

The Big Idea-

By looking at Jesus and his humility, we can turn our grumblings into prayers, and our disputes into opportunities to reconcile.

Is complaining always wrong?

- There is such a thing as a legitimate complaint based on needs (Acts 6:1-2)

Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables.

Acts 6:1–2 ESV

What are the roots of grumbling?

One root of grumbling is impatience with God and His provision.

(Exodus 15:22-27)

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.

Exodus 15:23-25 ESV

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.”

Exodus 16:2-3 ESV

“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.”

“I have heard the grumbling of the people of Israel. Say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. Then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.’”

Exodus 16:8, 11-12 ESV

What are the roots of grumbling?

Another root of grumbling is simply fear:
fear of disaster, or fear of change.

(Numbers 14:1-4)

And all the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The whole congregation said to them, “Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness! Why is the LORD bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become a prey. Would it not be better for us to go back to Egypt?”

Numbers 14:2-3ESV

What are the roots of grumbling?

A third root of grumbling is a sinful desire for prominence which creates resentment.

(Numbers 16:1-3)

And they rose up before Moses, with a number of the people of Israel, 250 chiefs of the congregation, chosen from the assembly, well-known men. They assembled themselves together against Moses and against Aaron and said to them, “You have gone too far! For all in the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the LORD?”

Numbers 16:2-3 ESV

And Moses said to Korah, “Hear now, you sons of Levi: is it too small a thing for you that the God of Israel has separated you from the congregation of Israel, to bring you near to himself, to do service in the tabernacle of the LORD and to stand before the congregation to minister to them,

Numbers 16:8-9 ESV

and that he has brought you near him,
and all your brothers the sons of Levi with
you? And would you seek the priesthood
also? Therefore it is against the LORD that
you and all your company have gathered
together. What is Aaron that you grumble
against him?”

Numbers 16:10-11 ESV

If these men die as all men die, or if they are visited by the fate of all mankind, then the LORD has not sent me. But if the LORD creates something new, and the ground opens its mouth and swallows them up with all that belongs to them, and they go down alive into Sheol, then you shall know that these men have despised the LORD.”

Numbers 16:28-30 ESV

And as soon as he had finished speaking all these words, the ground under them split apart. And the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the people who belonged to Korah and all their goods.

Numbers 16:31-32 ESV