

DESERT LESSONS**GRATEFULNESS**

Numbers 11

Pastor Daniel Hahn

May 30/31, 2020

MESSAGE NOTES

An all too common scenario:

- A caravan of complainers (Numbers 11:1)
- An entirely different kind of campfire (11:1 – 3)
- A total loss of perspective (11:4 – 9)

A God-initiated solution:

- Some helpers for Moses (11:16 – 17)
- Some un-happy meals for the complainers (11:18 – 23)
- Some people even died (11:33 – 34)

For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. ... And do not grumble, as some of them did — and were killed by the destroying angel. These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us ... — 1 Corinthians 10:1,10 – 11

The upshot of it all:

- Complaining is a serious problem — it reveals a lack of trust in God.

... I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through Him who gives me strength. — Philippians 4:11 – 13

- Complaining is a contagious problem — it spreads out and kills all joy in its path.

Do everything without grumbling, — Philippians 2:14

- Complaining is a perception problem — it blinds us to God's amazing provisions.

I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember Your miracles of long ago. I will consider all Your works and meditate on all Your mighty deeds. — Psalm 77:11 – 12

Give praise to the Lord, proclaim His name; make known among the nations what He has done. Sing to Him, sing praise to Him; tell of all His wonderful acts. Glory in His holy Name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. Look to the Lord and His strength; seek His face always. Remember the wonders He has done. — Psalm 105:1 – 5

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What part of the message this weekend stuck out to you? Why?
- What is one thing you remember about last weekend's sermon?
- What were the Israelites complaining about?
- Why do you think people often complain even though it doesn't accomplish anything?
- What is one situation you tend to complain about — or at least feel tempted to complain about?
- Why do you think all that complaining by God's people made God angry?
- Ultimately, what does a spirit of complaining reveal about our trust in God?
- Based on how God responded, what do we learn about the seriousness of this issue?
- What are some practical things we can do to counter-act negativity?
- How did the apostle Paul respond to the ups and downs he experienced (Philippians 4:11 – 13)?
- What is one step you could take this week to complain less and praise more?