

COMPLAINING

It's All in Your Mind...Attitude is Everything (Part 1)

⁴ Then all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night. ² All the sons of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron; and 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! ³ Why is the Lord bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become plunder; would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?' ⁴ So they said to one another, 'Let us appoint a leader and return to Egypt.'" Numbers 14:1-4 (NASB)

¹⁰ But all the congregation said to stone them with stones. Then the glory of the Lord appeared in the tent of meeting to all the sons of Israel. ¹¹ The Lord said to Moses, 'How long will this people spurn Me? And how long will they not believe in Me, despite all the signs which I have performed in their midst? ¹² I will smite them with pestilence and dispossess them, and I will make you into a nation greater and mightier than they.'" Numbers 14:10-12 (NASB)

²⁰ So the Lord said, 'I have pardoned them according to your word; ²¹ but indeed, as I live, all the earth will be filled with the glory of the Lord. ²² Surely all the men who have seen My glory and My signs which I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness, yet have put Me to the test these ten times and have not listened to My voice, ²³ shall by no means see the land which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who spurned Me see it.' ... ²⁷ 'How long shall I bear with this evil congregation who are grumbling against Me? I have heard the complaints of the sons of Israel, which they are making against Me. ²⁸ Say to them, "As I live," says the Lord, "just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will surely do to you; ²⁹ your corpses will fall in this wilderness, even all your numbered men, according to your complete number from twenty years old and upward, who have grumbled against Me. ... ³¹ Your children, however, whom you said would become a prey—I will bring them in, and they will know the land which you have rejected. ³² But as for you, your corpses will fall in this wilderness. ³³ Your sons shall be shepherds for forty years in the wilderness, and they will suffer for your unfaithfulness, until your corpses lie in the wilderness.'" Numbers 14:20-23, 27-29, 31-33 (NASB)

Grumbling – One word to describe an attitude of heart that God simply will not tolerate.

⁴ For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea; ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; ... ⁵ Nevertheless, with most of them God was not well-pleased; for they were laid low in the wilderness. ⁶ Now these things happened as examples for us, ... ¹¹ Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come." 1 Corinthians 10:1-11 (NASB)

KEY: Those who choose grumbling as their lifestyle will spend their lifetime in the wilderness.

⁴ Now the people became like those who complain of adversity in the hearing of the Lord; and when the Lord heard it, His anger was kindled, and the fire of the Lord burned among them and consumed some of the outskirts of the camp." Numbers 11:1 (NASB)

I. WE CHOOSE OUR ATTITUDES.

Attitudes - Are patterns of thinking formed over a long period of time.

II. COMPLAINING IS A SIN.

Complaining - To express dissatisfaction with a circumstance which is not wrong and about which I'm doing nothing to correct.

III. GOD HEARS OUR COMPLAINING.

⁴ Now the people became like those who complain of adversity in the hearing of the Lord;" Numbers 11:1a (NASB)

- They forgot how God provided.
- They made demands of God.
- They listened to others who were complaining.
- They focused on what they did not have.

IV. GOD JUDGES OUR COMPLAINING HARSHLY.

⁴ Now the people became like those who complain of adversity in the hearing of the Lord; and when the Lord heard it, His anger was kindled, and the fire of the Lord burned among them and consumed some of the outskirts of the camp." Numbers 11:1 (NASB)

⁴¹ God is a righteous judge, And a God who has indignation every day." Psalm 7:11 (NASB)

CONCLUSION:

- Am I a complainer?
- Am I reaping the consequences of my relationship with God?
- Am I willing to repent?