



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE®

Exodus and Leviticus Sermon Series

Supports Session 6: Provision Given

Sermon Title: “The Sin of Grumbling” (Exodus 15–17)

### Connection to Session 6

Exodus 15–17 tells the story of what happened after the exodus and the crossing of the Red Sea. One would think that after Israel had been set free from slavery they would continue rejoicing. However, they began to complain and failed to trust God’s provision.

### Introduction/Opening

Would you consider yourself to be a grateful person or a grumbler? It is easy to think we are more grateful than we truly are. It is easier for us to think we grumble less than what we actually do. At the heart of grumbling is a lack of trust in God. In our text today, the Israelites grumbled and complained instead of trusting God to provide for their needs. These accounts reveal the danger of grumbling and complaining.

### Outline

#### I. Grumbling over water (Ex. 15:22-27)

Immediately after God’s miraculous provision of salvation for the people of Israel, they began complaining over their lack of water. The lack of water for a group of people this large was a huge problem. However, instead of turning to the Lord, they complained.

- a. The problem
  - i. The people had no fresh water for three days.
  - ii. They traveled to Marah and found water; however, it was bitter.
- b. The response of the people
  - i. Instead of looking to the Lord to provide, the people begin to complain (v. 24).
    - i. Application: When we face trials and hardships, are we prone to grumble and complain?
- c. God’s solution
  - i. God miraculously changed the water to become drinkable (v. 25).
  - ii. The Lord tested the people (v. 25), and they failed. However, God promised to bless them if they remained obedient to Him (v. 26).

#### II. Grumbling over bread (Ex. 16:1-16)

Just after God miraculously provided water for Israel, He provided bread from heaven

for them. However, the Israelites' grumbled again. Their grumbling shows us that at the heart of grumbling is forgetting the nature of God. Their grumbling caused them to forget their past enslavement and God's miraculous deliverance.

- a. The problem
  - i. The people didn't have food.
- b. The response of the people
  - i. Instead of seeking the Lord through prayer, the people grumbled.
  - ii. At the heart of grumbling and complaining is forgetfulness. The people had forgotten what God did to deliver and provide for them.
    1. Application: When we grumble and complain, we forget what God has done for us.
- c. God's solution
  - i. God promised "bread from heaven" and meat for them (16:4,12).
  - ii. God provided bread and meat for the people (16:13-14).

### **III. Complaining over water (Ex. 17:1-7)**

The Israelites had already complained about water and food in the previous chapters, and once again they complained about water. A third test is outlined here for the people: Would they trust God to provide?

- a. The complaint of the people
  - i. Instead of turning to God in prayer to provide, the people complained about the lack of water. They failed this third test.
  - ii. God tested the people, not to trick them, but to show them He can be trusted.
    1. Application: Grumbling is destructive. When we grumble, we can easily destroy other people and their attitudes as well. When we grumble and complain, we are saying that we know what is best for ourselves.
- b. God's provision
  - i. God told Moses to strike the rock. God's presence would be in front of the rock that Moses would strike (v. 6).
  - ii. God's presence demonstrated He was the One who would provide for the people.

## **Conclusion**

We are called to trust God to provide. Yet, we are often prone to grumble and complain. In our grumbling and complaining we often forget about all that God has done for us in Christ. Like Israel, we too are guilty of sin and have done nothing to earn our salvation. However, God has provided a way of salvation through His Son Jesus Christ, who was struck in our place.

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