

Week 2: Gratitude's Nemesis: The Grumble

Series: Gratitude

Key Verses: Exodus 16; Numbers 11; James 1

Speaker: Dr. Justin Hardcastle

Big Idea: Grumbling and complaining undermine the grace of God and poison the heart. Merriam Webster defines ingratitude as "the failure or refusal to acknowledge receipt of something good from another; the forgetfulness of or poor return of kindness." Ingratitude is the choice not to recognize good or kindness in our life.

The Initial _____ ([Exodus 16](#))

- The Israelites were freed by God from brutal slavery in Egypt, and after forty-five days of travel, Israel's resources began to run dry.
- Just as we struggle with the gravity of our physical needs, so too did Israel.

Moses understood what the people did not yet understand: that we become what we behold (James 1).

- If we behold anger, we become angry people. If we behold envy, we become beholden to jealousy. If we harbor frustration, we transform into a quarrelsome person whose arguments keep us from getting along with others.
- Moses knew that if the people beheld grumbling, they would become a people far from the heart of the Lord.
- The early church leader James understood this well and spoke of this in his letter to the early church (James 1:1-4).

The Grumbling _____ ([Numbers 11](#))

— two years after their initial grumble.

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The Grumbling _____ ([Numbers 11](#))

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- The food was always the same, but the Israelites stomachs were full.
- But they would still complain.
- The Lord burned with anger, and He demonstrated His anger by burning the camp's outskirts.

Grumbling is the complete _____ of gratitude.

- To grumble and complain is to reject the grace of God.
- Israel's complaining surpassed their unmet physical needs.
- Grumbling gives us a free pass to shift our focus from faith in God's provision to the problems in our life.
- To live without gratitude and choose to grumble is to live life backwards.
- Grumbling rejects gratitude and asks why?

This is grumbling: I don't want manna, I want _____. I am tired of quail. I would rather have_____.

Closely examine your thoughts, attitudes, and words. Ask yourself, WHERE DO I GRUMBLE?

- Am I complaining a lot? Do I look at my life and say: This is not enough! Or am I living in a state of I want, I wish, I had, I miss...? Do I look at others' lives longingly and wish I had their experience, possessions, spouse, children, house, job, friends...?

What Is God Speaking to me today?:

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