

Daily Devotion For September 16, 2022

“Now the people **complained**.....” Numbers 11:1

Have you ever found yourself complaining? Sometimes that is me. The other day I was talking to a neighbor who seemed to be complaining about many things. Complaining can seem like a favorite pastime for many of us. We complain about our politics, people who wear or don't wear face masks, we complain about waiting in lines, we complain about traffic and technology, and even complain about how things are going or not going at church.

In our Thursday Night Bible Study, we saw that complaining was second nature for the Israelites during the 40 years they wandered in the wilderness. Israel was only three days into their wilderness journey when they started to complain. They complained about their hardships and the wilderness food. They wanted something different from the manna they had to eat day in and day out. The food they had eaten in Egypt seemed so much better.

Life in the wilderness can be hard, but when we complain, we fall into the devil's trap. When we complain, we tend to glamorize what we don't have rather than being grateful for what we do have. Did they really have it better in Egypt? Somehow the people completely forgot the hardships they had endured their 400 years in slavery. When we complain, we tend to see life in a distorted way. Grumbling flows when we think we deserve something better.

Thought For Today: In Philippians 2:14, Paul said do everything without grumbling. How can focusing on God's goodness and grace and being thankful for what we have turn our grumbling to gratitude?

Today's Prayer Focus: Take time to thank God for His goodness and grace and the blessings He has given you. Prayers for Yuri Wong who has had shingles the past few weeks, Bob McIntyre is still at CHOMP, Pat Wong is now on hospice care and his wife Shirley is taking care of him. Continued prayers for Nancy Ichiuji, Alan Durant, and Tom Gunter. Deo Volente.