

## **Don't be a Faithless Whiner**

Exodus 16:1-30

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*Grumbling, complaining and discontentment is faithless; a sin against God who uses hardship for the benefit of the people He loves.*

The Israelites were coming off of 400 years of total slavery; but God their Father truly understood their immaturity, physical needs, weaknesses, and level of faith.

### **1) Grumbling is a fruit of distrusting God (unbelief) (Exodus 16:1-3)**

*Grumbling: to obstinately live in a place of continuous complaining and murmuring*

1. The sin of grumbling is highly irrational
2. Grumbling is short sighted
3. Their grumbling is ungrateful
4. Their grumbling was offensive

### **2) The purpose of need and provision (Exodus 16:4-15)**

God uses suffering to teach and to test His people, to improve them, to refine them.

*"...that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not." (Ex 16:4, Deut 8:3, Ps 66:10-12)*

God wants to grow his children in trust and obedience to Him.

### **3) The proper response to need and provision: Trust & Obedience (Exodus 16:16-30)**

The Lord cooperated with the people; helped them by providing, but this was not a handout. He required them to gather, and He added rules and guidelines in order to test them and to teach them to trust Him. But the people quickly disobeyed and therefore had to learn some lessons.

### **Application**

God works all out for good for those who love Him, those He has brought into His family.

Unbelievers: You can't save yourself. God Himself **does the work that brings you in.**

1. Because of sin, you are **deserving wrath**. You will spend eternity separated from God, the source of all good
2. But by believing in Jesus, you can be **saved by grace**.
3. After that you are **counted as righteous**.
4. Then you will **rejoice in your salvation!**
5. And then you will be **activated to righteousness** – having the ability to choose to do what's right.

Believers: How can we NOT be a faithless whiner?

1. **Remember what God has done in the past.**
2. Remember who God is.
3. **Remember that He wants you to grow.**
4. **Don't grumble!** Believe who He is and believe what He does.

Endlessly complaining about the bad state of the world is grumbling. Instead: *"Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth."* (Colossians 3:2)

- *We are God's agents of order in a world of chaos. Our roles are not defined by ease and comfort.*
- God's story is an *epic* story that you and I live in, and we should **NOT** be grumbling about it.
- Let's think and talk about what is pure and right and good!