

The Sin of Murmuring Part 1

Murmuring is one of the sin that God is displeas with and the Scriptures got many examples that we can read and study so we will be warned and be aware not to sin against God and against other people, which will bring God's wrath on us. Studying the Scripture will also teach us the causes of such a sin, and to how to deal with it and the precautions that we must be aware of to handle it.

1. "22 So Moses brought Israel from the Red sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness, and found no water. 23 And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah. 24 And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink? 25 And he cried unto the LORD; and the LORD shewed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them, 26 And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee. 27 And they came to Elim, where were twelve wells of water, and threescore and ten palm trees: and they encamped there by the waters." (Exodus 15:22-27 KJV) This story took place after the great victory that God had achieved to the Israelites when He allowed their enemies, the army of Pharaoh and Pharaoh himself to be drown in the water and the Israelites got saved from them and from their bondage and slavery. After that Moses led them from the red sea to the wilderness of Shur. Their journey was hard, three days in the wilderness and there was no water; they might have little water with them to drink, but no water for them to wash or for their cattle to drink. Now Moses led them into the wilderness because that was their way to reach Mount Sinai where they were appointed to worship God there, as God commanded Moses as we read here, **"And he said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain."** (Exodus 3:12 KJV) * After each victory God may allow a hard time for you to pass through, then you should be ready and persevere with God and be willing to suffer for Him and for His cause and purpose and go through the narrow way. * God also may allow such trials to test you and see what is inside you and how you will act and react. * Or God may allow that so that to train you in order to make you more strong and persevering person.

"23 And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah." (Exodus 15:23 KJV) Now here God allowed them to reach a place that had water, but the water is bitter in taste, and it is really difficult to manage to drink as such. The meaning of 'Marah' is bitter. Sometime God do such things, again for a purpose in His mind to test you, to discipline you, to train you, and He wants you to pass through such.

"24 And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink?" (Exodus 15:24 KJV) The people here responded to the new situation that God had placed them in with grumbling against Moses. Why Moses? Because he was the one who led them into this place, as if it was his mistake and now he is responsible to correct it, but the truth is that it was the command of God to Moses to do that. Why Moses? Possibly they were shortsighted and could

not see God behind the whole scenario that they were passing through. The fact is that for them to reach the promise land, the land of Canaan, they needed to pass through the wilderness. **Don't grumble against people and even don't grumble against us, but turn and face God who is behind the whole scenario that you are passing through.**

They forgot to remember all the goodness of God on them three days ago and hurled grumbling on Moses, the same leader whom God used to lead them out from the slavery of the Egyptians and out from the hands of Pharaoh. Actually they could drink from the bitter water and sustain their bodies and their cattle and wash their bodies with, and wait for the better opportunity and for better water, but unfortunately they decided to grumble and complain. * In the same way here while we are waiting for the coming of Jesus to come and take us to Heaven and while we are finishing our journey on earth, God will lead us into the wilderness and not worldliness so we can reach safely our Canaan, the eternal life in Him. * So we need to persevere and endure until we reach there passing all the trials and hardships, not forgetting that there are lot of victories in between and blessings in between that in the past we had enjoyed and the victories that are ahead of us and above all the victory of Jesus on the cross. * Also put in your mind that you cannot change the way of God, and we as church and me as a leader will lead you into the wilderness that God ordained for us to pass through while we are waiting for Jesus. Therefore if you want to reach Heaven then bear with us and persevere in suffering until we reach there. The people did not pray or cry out to God but they grumbled against Moses. Moses became their scapegoat to put all the faults and the blames fell on him. The Hebrew word for 'murmured' is 'Luwn', which means, to grumble or to complain.

"25 And he cried unto the LORD; and the LORD shewed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them," (Exodus 15:25 KJV) Moses here acted in a very good and responsible way, he did not reply back and spoke back to the people nor quarrel, but he cried to God, in prayer, to solve that issue, and to provide water that the people easy for them to drink. In the same way we need to do as Moses did, that when people grumble against us, we need to cry to God to solve the problem that the people are suffering from, and we don't need to answer back and quarrel with the people. We might even need to understand them and give consideration whenever it seems possible to do that. But also we can notice that Moses had the same problem; the problem of no water and the problem of bitter water; he passed in the same trouble but he did not grumble.

After Moses cried to God, He showed him a tree, nothing mentioned in details about the tree, but when Moses casted that tree into the bitter water it became sweet and that was the solution. God solved that problem in a simple way and the people drank the water and got satisfied. **Certain times simple prayer will be enough to solve our problems and help us in our ministry, and the way we deal with the people, and encourage us and lead us forward in our journey with God.**

"There he made for them a statute and an ordinance," God in that place after He made the water sweet, He gave them statutes and ordinances that they may follow and gave them the condition that if they will obey Him, He will be a blessing to them. Not that He gave them the whole law but gave them a new portion that was simple to explain to them how their behavior and attitude to be with God so that the blessings will flow in their lives and their lives will be easier; **"and there he proved them,"** as the water was bitter and sweetened by the power of

God using the easy means of life with the help of God to make circumstances better, so then He gave them a proof and specimen how it would be with them after; that if they will behave ill they must expect the bitter waters of affliction and God to be sour with them, but, if they will behave well with God their lives will be, pleasant and good.

“26 And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee.” (Exodus 1:26 KJV) Here God made it very clear to them, that if they will respond to the voice of God and will do what is right in His sight and give attention to His commandments and keep all His laws, then He will put no more diseases on them as He did to the Egyptians, but instead He will heal them. What that meant to them, that their murmuring and their complaining will not do good to them but will bring on them God’s anger and God’s wrath in the form of diseases. * Anger, frustration, depression, lack of satisfaction, anxiety are the worse diseases that will come on you when you start to grumble and move to disobey God. * In the same way you need to remove murmuring and complaining from your attitude and willing to go along God and the way He placed you on, so sicknesses, diseases and other manifestations of God’s displeasure will be moving far away from you.

“27 And they came to Elim, where were twelve wells of water, and threescore and ten palm trees: and they encamped there by the waters.” (Exodus 15:27 KJV) After this God showed His good will towards them and brought them to an Oasis called Elim which means dates that had twelve wells of water and seventy palm trees, so they encamped there, and enjoyed the goodness of God for a while. They enjoyed the water and the shade, but not the fruit of dates because they encamped in April but the fruit of dates is in Summer. As you repent and mend your ways and get rid of all grumbling, complaining, negative and loose words, and willing to go along the Lord, then God will lead you to be moving into a peaceful situation enjoying his goodness and blessings and away from troubles.

2. *“1 And they took their journey from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came unto the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after their departing out of the land of Egypt. 2 And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness: 3 And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger. 4 Then said the LORD unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no. 5 And it shall come to pass, that on the sixth day they shall prepare that which they bring in; and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily. 6 And Moses and Aaron said unto all the children of Israel, At even, then ye shall know that the LORD hath brought you out from the land of Egypt: 7 And in the morning, then ye shall see the glory of the LORD; for that he heareth your murmurings against the LORD: and what are we, that ye murmur against us? 8 And Moses said, This shall be, when the LORD shall give you in the evening flesh to eat, and in the morning bread to the full; for that the LORD heareth your murmurings which ye murmur against him: and what are we? your murmurings are not against us, but against the LORD. 9 And Moses spake unto*

Aaron, Say unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, Come near before the LORD: for he hath heard your murmurings. 10 And it came to pass, as Aaron spake unto the whole congregation of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and, behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. 11 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 12 I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel: speak unto them, saying, At even ye shall eat flesh, and in the morning ye shall be filled with bread; and ye shall know that I am the LORD your God. 13 And it came to pass, that at even the quails came up, and covered the camp: and in the morning the dew lay round about the host. 14 And when the dew that lay was gone up, behold, upon the face of the wilderness there lay a small round thing, as small as the hoar frost on the ground.” (Exodus 16:1-14 KJV)

“1 And they took their journey from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came unto the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after their departing out of the land of Egypt.” (Exodus 16:1 KJV) Here the Israelites continued their journey towards Mount Sinai, so they needed to depart from their comfort zone which was in the Oasis of Elim where they enjoyed the water and the shade and needed to move forward reaching the desert of Sin, where there was no food for them to eat. Before there was no water, now no food, but Moses and Aaron were with them and they were suffering the same.

“2 And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness:” (Exodus 16:2 KJV) Again they grumbled because they were put in the wilderness, and this was the second time, and not only against Moses but also against Aaron. But what was the fault of both of them? No fault. It was God who was leading them using Moses and Aaron, so the Israelites vent their anger not against God but against both of them as they were the leaders.

“3 And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger.” (Exodus 16:3 KJV) They put the blame on Moses and Aaron accusing them that they were who brought them into the wilderness and not God. And they said it was better for them to die in Egypt, in which we know they were worshipping idols and living in immoralities and the rest of the life of sin, because they preferred to eat flesh in pots and bread to the full, while now in the wilderness were no food to eat and were accusing Moses and Aaron that they brought them here to kill them of hunger. Truly there was a problem about food, but the leaders were not the one to be accused and being the cause. Both Moses and Aaron were facing the same problem but they were calm about it and bearing it; so it was something to some extent bearable. God again allowed such for a purpose and to let His people to be moving in certain course that he ordained it for them.

“4 Then said the LORD unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no.” (Exodus 16:4 KJV) Here God who was watching what was going on, and hearing what the people spoke and how the people behaved with Moses and Aaron, and perhaps also that Moses was praying to God in facing such behavior of the people and his concern to secure to them food, so they will stop murmuring and what such a sin can bring upon them. So here the LORD intervened to solve the issue, and told Moses the following:

“Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no.”

Though the people were murmuring, rebellious, and ungrateful, God still dealt kindly and bountifully with them; and told Moses to open his eyes and see for He will allow bread from Heaven to rain for them so that their needs will be met and will be relieved from hunger. So it will be a ready prepared bread that they will not need preparation, but it will be rained down upon them and lay around their camp and tents ready at hand to take. The **“behold”** here was to show how marvelous the way God will meet such a need and that confirmed with what Jesus said, **“Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven.”** (John 6:32)

And the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, so this bread will rain daily and will be collected on daily bases, that certain amount of it shall be collected daily in a certain rate. So a fresh bread, day by day; as this would be rained every morning, the people were to go out of their tents, and gather it up for their daily use, and which was to be done every day. The same way as Jesus taught us to pray daily to have our daily bread, **“Give us this day our daily bread.”** (Matthew 6:11 KJV) God further said to Moses, **“that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no.”** By this single rule and command that oblige them to go out every morning, except the sabbath day, to gather their bread that will be rained on them fresh, they will be proved by God whether they will abide and obey or not, and whether they would depend upon His providence and abide with His laws in their lives. * **In the same way now, when you grumble and complain not that God would move to solve your problem because you grumble, for God had already prepared for your need the solution that will help you to overcome, but he will put a condition on you to prove you or test you to see if you will obey Him or not. * God in every stage of your spiritual growth will let you pass through a certain atmosphere and would expect from you to cooperate and go along what He ordained for you to pass through; to go through the wilderness and eating manna the new style of Christian life of discipline, to wake up early, and good stewardship, no more greediness and no more worldliness.**

Here in this style of new life in the wilderness God put on them six days to work and on the seventh day to rest and keep it a sabbath to God, and He secured their provision to them by giving them the double amount on the sixth day. **“5 And it shall come to pass, that on the sixth day they shall prepare that which they bring in; and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily.”** (Exodus 16:5 KJV) God is fair and He is the God of justice.

“6 And Moses and Aaron said unto all the children of Israel, At even, then ye shall know that the LORD hath brought you out from the land of Egypt: 7 And in the morning, then ye shall see the glory of the LORD; for that he heareth your murmurings against the LORD: and what are we, that ye murmur against us? 8 And Moses said, This shall be, when the LORD shall give you in the evening flesh to eat, and in the morning bread to the full; for that the LORD heareth your murmurings which ye murmur against him: and what are we? your murmurings are not against us, but against the LORD.” (Exodus 16:6-8 KJV) Here Moses and Aaron the leaders explained to the people that their grumbling were not against them but against the LORD, because they accused them that they were the one to bring them to the wilderness. **In the same way those who grumble against us because of the new style of**

strictness in life and the wilderness we live away from worldliness; we need to explain to them that is not from us but from the Lord who want us to live in such life until we reach to Heaven.

“9 And Moses spake unto Aaron, Say unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, Come near before the LORD: for he hath heard your murmurings.” (Exodus 16:9 KJV) Here Moses instructed Aaron to call the congregation to come before God that He needed to deal with them and their sin because He heard their grumbling. They needed to face God and come to Him to pray and ask their needs and not to grumble. **“10 And it came to pass, as Aaron spake unto the whole congregation of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and, behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. 11 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,”** (Exodus 16:10-11 KJV) And true when Aaron spoke to them, the Israelites as they looked into the wilderness they saw the glory of God appeared in the cloud. **In the same way as you look toward the wilderness (like reading, meditating and obeying what is in your Bible, praying, fasting, kneeling down, simple life, stewardship, discipline) and this is the way we enjoy our lives while we are waiting to reach Heaven, and not in the worldliness (like parties, wasting resources, bondage in the Media the News and games, lack of discipline, etc.) then you will be able to see the glory of God.** The Lord truly spoke to Moses and Aaron to convey to the people that God had heard their murmuring and He will do to them the following: **“12 I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel: speak unto them, saying, At even ye shall eat flesh, and in the morning ye shall be filled with bread; and ye shall know that I am the LORD your God.”** (Exodus 16:12 KJV) God was gracious to them in providing them their needs in the wilderness, and truly that what took place as we read here, **“13 And it came to pass, that at even the quails came up, and covered the camp: and in the morning the dew lay round about the host. 14 And when the dew that lay was gone up, behold, upon the face of the wilderness there lay a small round thing, as small as the hoar frost on the ground.”** (Exodus 16:13-14 KJV)

My dear and beloved: God is gracious to us therefore:

- Let us see Him in each and in every occasion of our Christian life.
- Let us walk with Him. Let us not look with negative looks to the people and those who are in offices and leadership and blame them, accuse them falsely and grumble against them for the hardship that we are passing through.
- Let us read the mind of God and let us see beyond the hardship that we are passing through.
- Let us discern and see the new life style that God had ordained for us to pass through.
- Let us learn to see the glory of God in the wilderness of this life that we are living until we translate to Heaven.
- Let us shun worldliness and its life styles knowing that it will lead us to be astray away from God.
- Let us be glad with the manna that God is giving to us and the way He is providing all our daily needs and necessities.
- Let us be thankful to Him for every provision, and for the guidance and the discipline, His presence in our lives and the place in Heaven that He had prepared for us.

Let us pray ...

My prayer: *Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word to us in this message to make us aware of the sin of grumbling and how it shows that people misunderstood you and your good plan that you have for them.*

Lord I commit myself to abide with your Word in this message and to implement that according to your will.

Confess and renounce your sins to God. Renounce the sin of grumbling, and complaining and accusing and blaming those in leadership, and blaming us for the hardship that you are passing through. Confess the sins of worldliness, and the lack of discipline and commitment, and the lack of stewardship and non willingness to suffer and go through the narrow way. Lord forgive me, I repent from the following sins _____.

Lord I commit myself to apply your Word and to implement your will in my life. Lord I commit myself to reproduce more fruit of the Holy Spirit; love, joy, peace, gentleness, kindness, patient, self-control, long-suffering, perseverance and humility. Lord help me to persevere in going through the narrow way.

Lord thank you for all the brethren and the sisters who committed their lives to live for you. Lord protect them and guide them, and continue to provide their needs so they will continue to serve you. Lord continue to reveal yourself to them and speak to them and show them your glory so they will continue to go into the right direction that you ordained for them to go through.

Lord bless us as a church, protect us from the evil one as we go in this task to serve you. Lord I pray for all the workers of the church to be in good attitude and away from grumbling and complaining and be willing to abide in the narrow way that you are directing us to go through. Lord provide all our needs, and open to us new doors to proclaim the message. Lord refill us again with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts to go and evangelize and make disciples and train new workers to plant new Bible studies and new congregations for the church. Lord let the vision that you give to your church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God' to be fulfilled. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

The Sin of Murmuring Part 1. Exodus 15:22-27. Exodus 3:12. Exodus 16:1-14. John 6:32. Matthew 6:11.

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