

The People Complain

In between last week and this week's message:

Regulations/ Tabernacle/ Garments- Exodus 35-40. Laws and Offerings- Leviticus 1-27
Census along arrangements of tribes and preparation for the camp – Numbers 1-9

Numbers 2- camping around the tent of meeting- West- 108,100- Camp of Ephraim / North- 157,600 – Camp of Dan/ East- 186,400- Camp of Judah/ South-151,450 Camp of Reuben.

How to Trust and be Satisfied with God!

Numbers 11:1-6, 18-20, 31-35, Psalm 78:26-31, Psalm 106:14-15

- 1) **Always be grateful and thankful for God's provisions! (verses 4-6)**
Israel had already complained in Exodus 16 b/c of no food and God provided, now they are complaining because they want something else. It is need vs. preference. Their craving (desire) showed not only their lack of trust to God but their unthankful heart.
 - What are some ways that God has provided for you?
- 2) **Make sure your cravings are for God and the things of God. (verse 4)**
The Israelites cravings were for what they didn't have! Their craving showed their heart and it was not in trusting God. They were letting a momentary want divert them from the path. **It's what their craving brought....the way they went about it.**
- 3) **Remember, while your "wants" may be met in your sin, you are still in bondage. (verse 5).**
Remember Pharaoh represented the enemy and the Israelites being in bondage represented sin.
 - By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, ²⁵ choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to **enjoy the passing pleasures of sin**. Hebrews 11:24-25
 - They would get what they wanted but it would cost them.
 - God's permissive will- God allowed it for a reason. Often used to show going in the wrong direction and to bring back to God. To show them/us that satisfaction and contentment are only found in God.
 - Their craving showed a lack of trust and satisfaction in God.
- 4) **Realize our complaining and dissatisfaction with God and His provisions are the same as rejecting the Lord. (verses 18-20)** Worry is not **believing** God will get it right, and bitterness is **believing God got it wrong** (Tim Keller). Complaining vs. yielding.
- 5) **Realize that which we think will satisfy us or bring us contentment, will in the end not!** "And you will seek Me and find *Me*, when you search for Me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29:13". "A DISSATISFIED SPIRIT FINDS NO PLEASURE FOR ITSELF EVEN WHEN ITS WISH IS FULFILLED" (Charles Spurgeon). The issue- what their cravings brought- lack of trust, to go back, ungratefulness (visa verse).
- 6) **While God's blessings are great if we are not satisfied with God himself and knowing Him we will never be satisfied. "God is most glorified, when we are most satisfied in Him" (John Piper).**
- 7) **Be reminded that our ungodly cravings will often cost us our own life and the life of others.** (ungodly cravings, or cravings of a good thing, define us or what we go after.)

Do you crave God and the things of God or the things of this world? While always wanting to grow more, are you content and satisfied in God? If not, you are looking after other things that will never satisfy.