Murmuring Moments

Greg Kline · Numbers 11:1–6

INTRODUCTION

- Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.
- This morning I'd like to discuss murmuring moments. And we find plenty of those in the Old Testament.
- Whether they intended so or not, the text records for us it was against God, and they realized it was.

1 Blinded by Their Physical Circumstances

Numbers 11:4–6; Exodus 17:1–7

- It exposes their problems with the Lord. They had a relationship issue. It wasn't a word choice issue.
- And Moses said, Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?
- They tested the Lord by saying, Is the Lord among us or not?
- Do you see how we can get bogged down in what we see? What we are focused on, and what that does is it blinds us to God.
- We put our faith in what I can see, what I can touch, what I have. And guess where that faith is not then? It's not in God.
- Murmuring, complaining, these types of problems with the Lord happen when we stop focusing on the Lord.

2 Not Remembering the Power and Strength of the Lord

Numbers 11:5–6

- God miraculously, over and over again delivered them from the land of Egypt.
- They didn't have trust in the Lord. They didn't remember what the Lord could do.
- The consideration for us this morning is simply do I take time to dwell on the fact that I serve a mighty God?
- Or maybe count our blessings, whether we consider them miraculous or not. Do you realize how life-changing that would be?
- Do you realize how that would cut the complaining out from under us?

3 Do All Things Without Grumbling or Disputing

Philippians 2:14–16

- Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God.
- Without blemish, in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation.
- Among whom you shine as lights in the world. Holding fast to the word of life.

- You realize that light shines brightest against a dark background. And that's who Christians are supposed to be.
- It very clearly affects our light. And that goes with all types of grumbling, whether murmuring against the Lord or murmuring about traffic or lines or anything else.
- I need to be focused on God because God is always good.

4 The Lord Is With Us; Do Not Fear

Numbers 13:25–33; Numbers 14:1–9

- Let us go up at once and occupy it, for we are well able to overcome it.
- If the Lord delights in us, he will bring us into this land and give it to us.
- Only do not rebel against the Lord, and do not fear the people of the land, and the Lord is with us. Do not fear them.
- Realizing that God can do all things isn't just a statement of belief. It is a life-changing understanding.
- They were willing to go along with God as long as it made sense to them.
- It's easy to trust in the Lord when you're winning battles. It's easy to trust in the Lord when all of your needs are being provided for.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Will we trust in the Lord? Will we be Christians who shine as light in the world, even if we're in a crooked and twisted generation? Will we do all things without grumbling or disputing?**

MY NOTES