

Transcript - Murmuring and Complaining - Elder Eric

Shalom, Chag Semeach. And here we are in the wilderness. Wow. And it's already been ... it's just the start of the feast and it seems like we've been here a week. So, it's amazing, how time, it seems like time stops when you're in the wilderness.

And the message I'm going to be going over today is on *Murmuring and Complaining ... Murmuring and Complaining*. The sad thing is, we live in a world where complaining is normal for most people. And you can see it everywhere. I don't have to tell you, on the internet, on social media. And it's just really sickening. And that's the way it should be for all of us. But the sad thing is, it's prophesied by the Apostle Paul in **2 Timothy 3**, that unfortunately one of the characteristics of the brethren is a complaining spirit.

So, it's something that we need to really look inside of our hearts and see, am I complaining? And I mean, how many of us complain, and complain on a daily basis? But complaining is not just saying the words. It's also the rolling of the eyes, the expression of disgust. And that's just the outward signs. But complaining actually comes from your heart. That's where it all starts because "*out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks*" and "*as a man thinks, so he is.*"

So let's first go to 1st Corinthians 10. And that's a famous passage that we have from the Apostle Paul on this subject. Because going over a message on murmuring and complaining how could you not go over the wilderness experience? So we have here in 1st Corinthians 10 verse 1,

1 Corinthians 10:1-2 *And I do not want you to be ignorant, brothers that our fathers were all under the cloud, and passed through the Sea. And all were baptized to Moses in the cloud and in the sea.*

Comment: So we see that they had accountability. And just as we're baptized and we're in covenant relationship with Yahweh, they had accountability as they were in covenant with Yahweh as well.

1 Corinthians 10:3-4 *And all ate the same spiritual food. And all drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank of the spiritual rock following, and that Rock was Messiah.*

Comment: So just like Yahweh said to them, "*man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of Yahweh*". They were getting that spiritual drink. They were getting that spiritual food. And that was from Yahshua. That was from the Rock that was following. So they had that every day. And that was supposed to help them and strengthen them. But we're going to see they did not want it. Verse 5,

1 Corinthians 10:5-6 *Yet Elohim was not pleased with most of them, "For they were scattered in the deserted place." But these things became examples for us, so that we may not be lustful after evil, even as those indeed lusted.*

Comment: So here we see that he's saying this is examples for us. And in that time Paul thought that they were the last generation so he's actually speaking on our behalf. Verse 7,

1 Corinthians 10:7-9 *Neither be idolaters, even as some of them, as it has been written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play." Nor should we commit fornication, as some of them fornicated,*

and twenty three thousand fell in one day. Neither let us tempt the Messiah, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents.

And here in verse 10,

1 Corinthians 10:10-12 *Neither should you murmur, as also some of them murmured, and perished by the hand of the destroyer. And all these things happened to them to those as examples, and it was written for our warning, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So that he that thinks he can stand, let him be careful that he not fall.*

So this is something that we all really need to look at. Because if we think, "Oh, I don't complain, this doesn't affect me." Be careful, because, like he says here, be careful when you have that pride and you think you have it all. Then that's when you've lost the battle.

We may think, well, how could they have complained after they were delivered from the Egyptians and saw the parting of the Red Sea? I mean, what greater miracle can you have to build your faith than that? But yet, don't we complain about trivial issues every day for far less?

So we really have to look at, I mean, trivial things that we complain about. And that's ... why would we be complaining about something like that? But we really have to look at the core issues of why we have a complaining spirit. Because a complaining spirit is just the symptom. And that's what we're going to go over today, is the core issue. We're going to go to the root cause; the root causes of a complaining spirit.

First, let's go to Psalm 78. And a **really** good chapter here by Asaph. He goes over the wilderness experience, and he brings out some **really** interesting things, some gems for us that we can apply to our life.

Murmuring, complaining was a serious problem for the Israelites in the wilderness, if not the worst. And Yahweh said to Israel that they tried Him ten times, and in most of those cases we see that there was complaining involved. So Psalm 78 in verse 1,

Psalm 78:1-4 *A Lesson of Asaph. O my people, give ear to my Torah; bow your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable; I will pour forth dark sayings of old, those which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their sons; to declare to the coming generation the praises of YAHWEH; yea, His strength and His wonderful works that He has done.*

Psalm 78:5-8 *For He raised a Testimony in Jacob, and He set the Torah in Israel; which He commanded our fathers to make them known to their sons; so that a **coming** generation may know; sons shall be born; they shall rise up to tell their sons, so that they might set their hope in Elohim, and not forget the works of El, but keep His commandments. And they shall not be like their fathers, a **stubborn and rebellious generation**, a generation that prepared not its heart; yea, whose spirit was not faithful with El.*

Wow, really interesting, did you catch that? "A generation that prepared not its heart." So that was a key issue that they had; they went from Egypt to the wilderness; but they didn't go preparing their heart. And when these challenges came, we see they didn't have the strength. They didn't have the strength to overcome them.

So we're going to go over how important this is; we're going to see how important this is as we go through this. That we really need to prepare. So this is a warning for us. Yahweh gave this, and we see it over and over, when preparation meets opportunity then you have success. So we have to really take heed to these words. And now we're going to go over some examples.

We're going to go over two examples. And we're going to see some of these times that they complained; and we're going to look at what were the root causes of them. So let's turn to Numbers 11; a very famous situation that we have of when they complained. Numbers chapter 11, and this was in Taberah. So this is where they lusted. The famous stop where they lusted, with a great lust for flesh, and starting in verse 1,

Numbers 11:1 *And the people were **evil**, as those complaining in the ears of YAHWEH. And YAHWEH heard, and His anger glowed, and the fire of YAHWEH burned among them and devoured in the extreme edge of the camp.*

Comment: So does Yahweh like complaining? No. It says that it was **evil**, and that He hates it, He detests it. So there is **no** time when we complain that it's ever justified. We have to remember also too, that every time we complain, we complain to Yahweh. Because He's the one that gave us that situation. He's the one that allowed it to come to us, because He's in control of all things. So we have to remember that He's the One that we complained to, and that's in **Exodus 16:8**. And continuing,

Numbers 11:2-4 *And the people cried to Moses, and Moses prayed to YAHWEH, and the fire was quenched. And he called the name of that place Taberah, because of the fire of YAHWEH burned among them. And the mixed multitude among them lusted with a great lust; and the sons of Israel also turned back and wept, and said, Who shall cause us to eat flesh?*

And that's another thing. If you have someone around you that has a complaining spirit, get away; be far away from them. **1st Corinthians 15:33**, “*bad communications corrupt good habits.*” So if you're around someone that has a complaining spirit, it's going to affect you.

So there was the mixed multitude that lusted, **and then** that's when the sons of Israel turned back. So they turned back from Yahweh, and it says that “*they wept*”; so they were crying about it, and then they said, “*who shall cause us to eat flesh?*” So here we see this is unbelief; and we see this time and time again; they murmured because of their unbelief; and that's one of the root causes of murmuring and complaining, is not having belief.

And really that's a simple thing to overcome. Because it's really about your perception and what you're focusing on. That's what becomes most real to you; that's your reality. So if you're always focusing on Yahweh; you're always focusing on His promises, which they should have done, which we see that Joshua and Caleb did, then you're not going to ever doubt. And like we know, one doubt doesn't just ... there's not just one doubt. Another doubt will come and another doubt will come. So you have to, like it says in **Romans 10:17**, “*your faith comes by hearing, and hearing the Word of YAHWEH.*”

So you have to keep ... you have to continuously be pouring it into your mind, reading it, praying, meditating on it; and that's going to help strengthen your faith. But it's not just hearing it. Because here, like we just read in **1st Corinthians 10**, they heard it. They heard it; they received it, but it just went in one ear and out the other. They weren't doing it.

And so when we apply it to our lives, that's the key. You have to apply it. And as you apply it, you're going to see, wow, yeah, what Yahweh said is true; there's blessings, blessings for obedience. And then your faith will grow. And that's how we go from faith to faith, strength to strength, and you continue to build your faith that way. And that's what they didn't do. They didn't apply it. They didn't listen. They just let it go in one ear and out the other, and we can't do that. We have to really apply what He says in everything, no compromises.

And as you make those steps in faith, you're going to see Yahweh's hand in your life. And your faith is going to continue to grow. But we have to allow Him to do it. And a lot of times we stop that because we want to go on our strength. We trust more in ourselves, or we trust more in the system of Babylon, and in the government, and we don't allow Yahweh to show Himself real in our lives. So continuing, it says,

Numbers 11:5-6 *We remember the fish that we ate in Egypt for nothing; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlic; and now our soul withers. There is nothing except this manna before our eyes.*

So wow. What do we see here? Discontent. They were not satisfied with what Yahweh was providing. That manna, every day they had it, it was a miracle, and they could go out and collect it, and they said that it tasted like cakes with honey. Do you like cakes with honey? I know I do. And yet now, they're saying their soul withers. **Wow**, what discontent. And any time we have discontent, it's because we're not satisfied with what Yahweh's providing. And discontentment, that is a manifestation from pride. So pride here is the root cause. They weren't satisfied. They thought that they deserve better than what Yahweh provides.

Actually, we see that this was the original sin of satan himself. He wasn't content being third in Heaven. And actually, once he saw that Adam and Eve would be sons and daughters to Yahweh, be Their children and be over him, he was really discontent about that. The problem with pride, it causes this false reality that we think that we're at the center of the universe. And that everything is there for our happiness; it's supposed to serve us. We all have a deep desire to be happy. But the problem is we base our happiness off of the things of this world. And we think that what the world has, **that's** what should make us happy; but that's not how Yahweh wanted it.

And that's the test that we have in this life. That we've got to just be satisfied with what He provides; and not look at what the world has. And that's what we see in social media of everybody showing, "Oh, look at me, I'm traveling, I'm in Fiji;" or "I'm in Hawaii and I'm enjoying all of this." That's not what happiness brings. Because it's never going to lead to satisfaction. You're always going to want more and more. Because our human nature just lusts for more and more. You're never going to be happy as a human being. But if we have our happiness, put our happiness in Yahweh, then we'll always be happy. Because He gives us everything that we need. And His happiness is everlasting.

So, since discontentment comes from pride, the way to overcome this is you have to lose yourself. So we have to humble ourselves. And the way that Yahweh humbles us is through challenges. So when challenge comes your way, you have to allow that challenge to break you, to humble you. And instead of asking, "Oh, why is this happening to me?" Ask better questions and you're going to get solutions. So like, what am I complaining about? What am I not happy about? And in 1st Corinthians 4:7, Paul asks a **really**, really good question. He says,

1 Corinthians 4:7b what do we have that we didn't receive?

"*What do we have that we didn't receive?*" If you really think about that. There's nothing that you have that you've received because of your own strength, your own intelligence; because of the qualities that you have. Because everything that you have Yahweh gave to you. And when you really look at that you can only thank Yahweh for everything that you have. We need to instead reframe, and be grateful. Think about things that Yahweh blessed you with. And instead focus on those things. Focus on what is true; establish empowering beliefs like **Romans 8:28**, "*all things work together for good, to those who love Yahweh and are called to purpose.*" That everything that Yahweh allows is for our good and therefore what shall we complain about? 1st Timothy 6:6, another really good scripture. 1st Timothy 6:6 says,

1 Timothy 6:6 our gain is greater contentment, for it is the worship of Elohim.

"*Our gain is greater contentment.*" **Wow!** So, being always content is true worship to Yahweh. Worship is not just about singing praise songs from your heart. It's about being in a state of appreciation and contentment, for who Yahweh is and what He has done for you. And appreciating that He is in control in Heaven on His throne there, where He should be. And that you are under Him, but you are His child and you are happy just that you are alive, and that He has chosen you. So there are so many more things that we can be thankful about. And that's what we need to focus on.

The other root cause of complaining, we're not going to go over. But that's having a root of bitterness. And when challenges come your way, and you don't have the faith in that situation, whether it could be like the loss of a job, not being healed for a terminal illness, whatever it may be; and then we get angry and that anger turns towards bitterness. And then it develops a root of bitterness and then over time that root of bitterness will turn into hatred. And that's what we see in **Numbers 14** that Yahweh said that they **despised** Me. And we don't want to ever get to that point.

So we have to make sure that in those situations, instead of getting angry and frustrated about it, we have to turn that focus and build our relationship with Yahweh. Because love is the opposite of hatred; and the more you spend time with Him, and asking Him also, to help you have that love for Him. We have to get back to, and remember what we had when we first were a believer, get back to those habits, get back to that first love. And that's going to help you to combat that root of bitterness. That's what's going to help you to get over that. Because we don't want to develop that root of bitterness towards Yahweh.

So, preparation, we have to act now. We can't wait till the time when we get to the wilderness, if we're able to get there. Because then it will be too late. The challenges will be too big and you're not going to have the strength. It says that "*strive to enter into the narrow gate and many will seek to enter but will not have strength.*" They're not going to have the strength. And we have to develop that strength now. And that again is through spending time with Yahweh; allowing the challenges that come to help us to grow. Ask Him, what should I learn from this? And then applying it, and repenting, and changing, and allowing yourself to grow in Yahweh. And being stronger in His character.

So, living a life of faith now, it's going to help us. Because if we wait till the wilderness, it's going to be too late. The wilderness is a test, it's not the promised land. And it's a test to see if we're worthy for the Kingdom for eternity. That's the big test. And we want to make sure we pass that test. So prepare now. May this help you in preparing for the challenges that lie ahead. Shalom. Chag Semeach.