



September 2, 2012

FGTG #1:

WE WANT MEAT!

COMPLAINING IN THE MIDST OF BLESSINGS

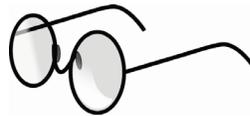
Numbers 11:1-35

Sermon Outline

1. General Principle: When People Complain, God is not Pleased (v. 1-3)
2. Complaining in the Midst of Blessings (v. 4-6)
3. Getting What We Want, but Finding Out it Isn't for our Best (v. 18-20, 31-34)

Application Question

Do you look through the eyes of ENTITLEMENT or do you look through the eyes of BLESSINGS?



Discussion Questions

1. Do you see your life as a cup half full or a cup half empty?
2. When was the last time you grumbled and complained about something? How about the last time you've counted your blessings and thanked the Lord for them?
3. We were reminded from the message in Numbers 11 how the Israelites grumbled in the midst of blessings. They went through slavery in Egypt for more than 400 years, asked God to deliver them, then were freed through the leadership of Moses. Three days into their journey to the Promised Land of Canaan, they grumbled and complained. Their attitude certainly didn't please God. Have you ever done the same thing in your life: grumbled in the midst of blessings? How did God correct that attitude in you?
4. When we get accustomed to our blessings and think that they have become bland and boring, we tend to ask for more, just like the Israelites did when they got tired of manna and asked for meat. How would acts like this hurt our relationship with God? How could we overcome this wrong attitude? How can we remember to count our blessings daily?
5. Please share a time when you went through hardship, and sometime after saw things differently from God's point of view.
6. Sometimes God may give us what we complain for? Looking back at your life when God gave you what you wanted, was it everything you had hoped for? Was the "grass really greener on the other side"? Do you really believe that God loves you and that what He gives you is really the best for you (i.e. not too much, not too little, just perfect for your needs)?
7. Are you looking through the lens of blessings or lens of entitlement? Have you had friends or other people who have told you that you really deserve the good things in your life, and that God owes them to you? How did you respond? Does God really owe anyone anything or has He somehow "short-changed" you?
8. Share with each other the blessings you've received this week. It could be something from the Word of God, or a material gift, or something good that has happened to you or with loved ones or with friends.

Part of the Sermon Series
From Grumbling to Gratitude
By Rev. Stephen Tan