



## No Growth - Murmur

**Jesus therefore answered and said unto them, Murmur not among yourselves.**

### John 6:43

**Mouth** - Matt. 15:18, Romans 3:14, Jude 1:16

**Upset** - Pro. 15:1, 21:19, Ephesians 4:26-27

**Rebellious** - Ezekiel 12:2, Jeremiah 5:23

**Mind** - Ephesians 2:3, Philippians 3:19

**Ungodly** - Psalm 1:4, 6, Proverbs 16:27

**Reap** - Job 4:8, Galatians 6:7

What is a murmur? Murmur is to express disapproval of something that we encounter. This specific response occurs in several ways. To grumble is to complain, as most often noted. Other expressions are whispering in a dissatisfying way, rumbling disturbingly, and babbling disruptively. These gestures could distract others in the vicinity, causing an inappropriate disturbance in the community. Murmur is a sin and creates division with the potential of being permanent. It may be the most popular way of being unpopular, from pleasant to unpleasant, to interesting to not interested. God could not stand the people who murmur.

The Israelites are a perfect example of what murmuring can do to a generation of people when their destiny was only days away from embracing what God had in store for them. These are the same group of people delivered from bondage at the hands of the Pharaoh in Egypt. They received the ten commandments from God that He gave through His servant Moses. While providing the way for the Israelites, God educates them through His servants with the laws, covenants, and other

pertinent information they need to know in preparation for the future entrance of the Promised Land. God went as far as to educate His people on certain foods, what is good to eat, and what not. He did all of these things for them, and they were murmuring over a few challenges along their journey. How would anyone feel or react to that?

*A murmur begins with the mouth. To open it and voice our displeasure over something. Sin and defilement already live in human souls. That depravity reveals by the words a person says. The rambling will show what is inside a person's heart. When we speak in that manner, we uncover that contamination is there already.*

*The Israelites, coming across from the Red Sea that the living God provided, escaped the pursuit of Pharaoh and his army of men. They celebrated the victory of God's mighty hand through His servant Moses and set a journey to the Promised Land through the wilderness. However, during their adventure, the Israelites discover they have no water. What shall we drink? The people murmured, which is the first response to Moses as the servant of God.*

*There is a difference between asking a question and inquiring with an attitude towards someone. There are times the situation for a person could be so terrible that the reaction is equal to their circumstance. Unfortunately, the receiver is the one that will have to endure the abuse and tolerate the frustration of the sender. Through the cursing and bitterness of the instigator, the retaliator is usually the one that gets the penalty. However, in many cases, the murmurer had a bad day and needed an outlet to get certain things off their chest.*

A murmur could make a person feel emotionally disturbed. The Israelites were triumphantly rejoicing over the victory of Pharaoh from Egypt and his army, only to succumb to the unfamiliar territory that did not have adequate resources to fulfill their needs. In Exodus chapter sixteen, verse one, the people's journey from Elim through the wilderness of Sin en route to Sinai on the fifteenth day after the departure of Egypt is not what they expected. The conditions were not ideal for the Israelites, and the whole congregation murmured against the leaders Moses and Aaron. They came to Marah, which

had water, but turned out to be bitter, and so were the Israelites.

The Israelites were bothered by the circumstances, and it began to show. The display of behavior starts to weigh on the leaders Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The disturbance from the Israelites with their harsh words only created hostility towards their guardians. The more they exhibit their unhappiness, the more distressing for Moses and Aaron. How quickly the environment can change when something wrong happens after experiencing a miracle from God.

Anger is not necessarily wrong. It all depends on what the person is angry about, which could be an injustice. However, if someone is agitated over something and potentially feels threatened, then it becomes a serious matter because no one knows the inner feelings of someone unless they come out, and by that time if there is no aid, it may be too late. Anger expresses the inner self that society is not able to see. However, it does send the message for people to recognize that something is unfair.

*A murmur continuously fatally creates dissension. In Exodus chapter sixteen, verse seven, the Israelites expressed their insurgency towards Moses and Aaron.*

*However, they replied, ".....for that he heareth your murmurings against the Lord: and what are we, that ye murmur against us?" The children of Israel verbally express their inner feelings of insurrection to Moses and Aaron, the leaders who they can see. However, the Israelites' rebellion was against the ruler of all creation, who they physically could not see, which is God himself.*

*The Israelites did not realize how much impact their murmur caused upon themselves and against the Mighty God. In the following verse eight of Exodus, since they voiced their murmuring openly to their leaders and God heard it, He gave them what they wanted. The Israelites had more than enough food to eat in the evening and supplied morning meals to the full. God heard their murmurings that they had so much food that they did not know what to do with the excess. The Israelites overwhelmed Moses and Aaron with their murmur, and God returned the favor and overwhelmed them with food.*

*Rebellion is disobedience. At the beginning of the First Samuel, chapter fifteen, verse twenty-three, states, "For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft...." Witchcraft seeks to manipulate events, people, or the future by spirits of the departed dead. Rebellion against God's Word is like this iniquity in that both involve a rejection of God's lordship and an attempt to determine the outcome of things in a manner other than God's way. Furthermore, both sins take transgressors out from under God's protection and put them under the destructive power of Satan and evil spirits.*

A murmur begins from the mind. In Exodus, chapter seventeen, the children of Israel journey from the wilderness of Sin to pitch in Rephidim. The people started to criticize Moses because there was no water to drink. They questioned him, "Give us water that we may drink." Moses replies, "why lecture me? Why tempt the Lord?" The people thirsted for water and began their murmurs toward Moses. When the Israelites could not see the water physically in Rephidim, they continued to murmur and question Moses. "Wherefore is this that you brought us out of Egypt to kill us, our children, our cattle with thirst?"

Those who live in iniquity follow two wrong things. First, they follow the way, or the "course," of the world. What seems right from a human perspective leads to death apart from the wisdom of God. The second problem of those who live in transgression is they follow "the prince of the power of the air," which is the devil. Satan deceives people on many different levels and continues to deceive many today. This devil influences the lives of those who are "sons of disobedience" rather than the sons of God. Satan is a spirit, not a human, who works in the lives of those who disobey God.

In Exodus, chapter seventeen, verse three, the Israelites faced adversity when they could not have access to drinking water. They failed to trust God, who made them free from Egypt and Pharaoh, out of the house of bondage. Instead, the children of Israel believed in their knowledge and followed what was in their minds. Their intelligence made them operate in the flesh and not in spirit, causing disruption. The children of Israel allowed the enemy to influence their minds to create problems for Moses.

*A murmur is ungodly. In Exodus chapter seventeen, verse four, Moses replies to God, "What shall I do to this people?" This behavior must have been puzzling to him. Moses was with the Israelites in Egypt when they were suffering at the hands of the Pharaoh. Initially, he did not want to lead these people out of the ungodly land they had spent for so many years.*

*The children of Israel's ungodly approach to Moses now begins to affect him that he questions God. He felt their hostility which probably did not make sense to him because they were rejoicing together not too long ago, crossing the Red Sea in victory. The Israelites allowed the murmur to control them so much that it contaminated the environment, causing Moses to behave differently at that moment with God. However, God is so merciful to them that He gives Moses instructions to provide for their need.*

*The ungodly are the opposite of the godly. The Israelites are people that allow corruption to enter themselves, giving way to the enemy to use them for his plan. In this case, the devil gets the Israelites to attack the chief leader Moses because he was the one God used to lead the people out of Egypt. In Exodus, chapter seventeen, in the latter part of verse four, Moses declares to God, "they are almost ready to stone me." Why would the leader of God's people feel that way?*

A murmur causes a doer to reap. The question is, what do murmurers get in return for their murmuring? In Exodus, chapter seventeen, verses five through seven depict the result of the Israelites' response to the adversity in Rephidim. The Lord instructs Moses to take the elders of Israel with him, a rod, and go to the rock in Horeb and perform accordingly. Moses obeys as God told him.

In Exodus chapter seventeen, verse seven particularly cement the Israelites' mark of their murmuring. They went too far with their chiding that God calls the place Meribah, which means quarreling, and also Massah, which means testing. The Israelites tempted God by criticizing and lecturing as if He did something wrong. The only thing God did was save them from injustice and evil at the hands of the Egyptians. The Israelites seem as

though they forget where their coming from: from the bondage of Egypt.

The worst part about murmuring is not how you say it but what you say. The sowing of words cannot go back once it comes out and delivers to the person intended. Both the sender and receiver can be severely hurt. In Exodus chapter seventeen, the latter part of verse seven, Moses states after naming the place Massah and Meribah: he repeats what the Israelites said to the Lord. Moses reiterates the words of the children of Israel, "Is the Lord amongst us or not?"

Today, many parents have raised their children from infancy to become young adults only to experience disgrace. Some folks have gone through awful verbal confrontations with their kids who show no respect or honor towards them. The negative verbal feedback parents experience is horrible. Statements like, "I hate you!" or "I don't care about you!" are as severe as "I wish you were not my parents!" These examples are mild and could be worse. Yet some parents disregard it because they love their kids, and some folks love them but will not tolerate it.

**God did not tolerate the murmur coming from the children of Israel. Even though Moses was a mediator between God and the Israelites, the Lord will not allow such behavior to continue. God is love and a Father to his children. However, a murmur is a sin and creates division with the potential of being permanent. It is negative, faithless, ungodly, and causes division. God's original plan for Israel from Egypt was to take them to the Promised Land in eleven days. However, their murmuring from when they crossed the Red Sea caused the Israelites to wander in the wilderness for forty years until the older generation died away. However, the younger ones were able to make it. Murmur delays the opportunity for people to experience the blessing of God.**