

Sermon Reflections

Grumble Test • Exodus 15:22-16:12

Summary: When God brings tests or trials into your life, you can grow in faith, or grumble in doubt. Embrace the test; grow in faith; know that He is good.

1. Trouble Tests Our Faith (15:22–27)

- God sends trouble to us *on purpose*. It is a part of His sovereign plan to test the faith of His children, in order to strengthen their faith (1 Peter 1:6-7)
- The Israelites responded to their lack of water with hostility and grumbling. Moses responded by calling out to God.
- If you are in a trial now, examine your heart. How has your faith fared? Have you cried out to God, or grumbled against Him?
- If not in a trial, how can you pray now to prepare yourself to respond well in later trials?

2. Grumbling Exposes Our Faithlessness (16:1–12)

- ***Grumbling distorts the past.*** (vv. 1-3) The Israelites' complaint was not rational. Their sin corrupted their ability to think rightly about their time in Egypt, and Moses and Aaron.
- ***Grumbling exposes a lack of faith.*** (vv. 4-5) God provides manna to the Israelites to see if they will walk in His law, a test which soon exposes their lack of faith again. (Ex. 16:20, 27-29)
- ***Grumbling accuses God of wrong.*** (vv. 6-8) The Israelites' complaints about food, water, and leadership was ultimately a complaint against God's Providence for them.

Cross-reference Romans 8:28. If God works *all things* together for the good of His people, then grumbling about *anything* is an indictment of God's Providence.

- ***Grumbling stems from a deficient view of God.*** (vv. 9-12) The Israelites become a firsthand witness in these verses that God is "compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth." (Ex. 34:6)

Questions to Consider:

- How is grumbling about a situation in your life different from crying out to God about a situation in your life?
- When does a prayer to God cross the line from a complaint in faith (Job 10:1) to grumbling against God?