

How God Views Complainers
Numbers 11:1-2
By Russ Earl

Thesis: I want to show how God handles those who complain.

Intro:

1. God's people were taken care of by God, still, they still found "reasons" to complain.
2. God does not ignore complainers, who handles them according to His will.

I. The Defiance of Israel (Numbers 11:1-9;31-34)

A. First Occasion

1. When the faithful complain it displeases God (**v.1a**)
2. Not only does it displease God the Bible says it actually angers **Him (v.1b)**
3. The Lord punished the people because of their complaining (**v.1c**)
4. The people cried out to Moses, who in turn prayed to God and the remaining were spared. (**v.2**)

B. Second Occasion

1. The people were not satisfied with God provided them (**v.4**)
2. What they remember is what the desire, but it was while they were in slavery (**v.5**)
3. Their attitude is clear, they are not "thrilled" about what God has given them, from heaven (**v.6-9**).

C. The people were unthankful

1. God was generous and gave them meat to eat. (**v.31-32**)
2. No doubt, Moses was relieved (**Num 11:13-14**)
2. God punished the people for being unthankful & no doubt for their complaining (**v.33-34; Num 11:10b**).

II. The Despair of Moses (Num 11:10-25)

A. The Reason for his complaints

1. When the faithful complain even God's leaders can be affected (**v.10**)
 - a. He heard the families complaining
 - b. People were at the door of his tent constantly complaining
 - c. The Lord Himself was upset with the people and their complaining
2. Moses pleads with God and brings his worries before Him (v.11-14).
 - a. Moses views these people as a burden that God has laid on him (**v.11**).
 - b. Moses says, basically, I am not their mother (**v.12**)
 - c. Moses asks where he is to get meat to feed them, and then says that this burden is too heavy for him (**v.13-14**)
 - d. Moses makes one final plea to God, if I found favor in your sight, then kill me now, its better than dwelling with these complainers (**v.15**).

B. The results of his complaints (Num 11:16-25)

1. God relives Moses of some of his burden, a man can be overburdened (**v.16-17**)
 - a. He first handles the complaints of His appointed leader and then the peoples.
2. God says the people will eat until they loath the meat they were begging for (**v.19-20**)
3. Moses questions God, God then reminds Moses of who He is (**v.21-23**)

III. Lessons for us today.

- A. Complaining has never pleased God (**Num 21:5-9**)
 - 1. God again punished those who complained (**v.5**)
 - 2. We cannot complain against God and expect to be found pleasing to Him (**v.6**)
- B. God provides forgiveness and second chances
 - 1. Repentance brings hope and reconciliation (**v.7**)
 - 2. God gave the people a way of salvation (**v.8-9**)

Conc:

- 1. Let us not complain, but pray for a change of attitude.
- 2. Sometimes complainers need to take a step back and see the “big picture”.
- 3. Often we complain when we lose sight of what truly matters.

Hear

Romans 10:17

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Believe

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever + in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Repent

Luke 13:3

I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.

Confess

Rom 10:9 — Rom 10:10

that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Be baptized

Acts 2:38

Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 22:16

And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.’

Remain Faithful

Revelation 2:10

Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.