

How to Make God Really Mad!

[Complain - Cancer - Contagious - Curse - (no) Commitment]

Num 11:1--Now when the people **complained, it displeased the LORD**;

for **the LORD heard it**,

and **His anger was aroused**.

[his anger blazed against them]

So the **fire of the LORD burned** among them,
and consumed some in the **outskirts of the camp**.

[Judgment starts off on the outer perimeters]

2-3 Then the people cried out to Moses,
and when **Moses prayed** to the LORD, the fire was quenched.

[Prayer causes judgment to cease]

So he called the name of the place **Taberah**,
because the fire of the LORD had burned among them.

[Taberah = place of burning]

4 Now **the mixed multitude**
who were among them **yielded to intense craving**;

[There is always a mixture]

so the **children of Israel also wept again**
and said: "**Who will give us meat to eat?**"

[Started wailing and complaining]

5-6 "We remember the fish which **we ate freely in Egypt**,
the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic;

[Selective memories]

but **now our whole being is dried up**;
there is **nothing at all except this manna** before our eyes!"

[Oh Wow!]

7 Now the manna was like coriander seed, and its color like the color of bdellium.

8 The people went about and gathered it, ground it on millstones or beat it in the mortar,
cooked it in pans, and made cakes of it; and its taste was like the taste of pastry prepared with oil.

9 And when the dew fell on the camp in the night, the manna fell on it.

10 Then **Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families**,

everyone at the door of his tent; and **the anger of the LORD was greatly aroused**;

[Extremely Angry]

Moses also was displeased. (NKJ)

[Moses was also annoyed!]

Summary:

- a) They were **complainers**.
- b) There was **discontentment among them, which was becoming an mutiny**
- c) They **began to quarrel and question God Himself**.
- d) **James 3:5--See how great a forest a little fire kindles!** (NKJ)

Why were they complaining when they were given with so much to be thankful for.

- a) Their camp was **guided, guarded, and graced**.
- b) They had **supernatural food**.
- c) Their **feet did not swell**.
- d) Their **clothes did wear out** <Deut. 8:4>.
- e) **What more could have been done for a people to make them content?**
Those with an irritable discontented spirit will always find something to complain about!

Almighty God's Reaction:

- A. **The Lord heard it!** God knows about secret grumbling and murmuring even if it is just in our heart.
- B. **His anger was kindled—very displeased!**
 - 1) They expected only the **land of promise**, but **not the difficult conditions** on the way to it.
 - 2) **They were hangers on**—who went with them because they were **blessing seekers—office seekers**..
 - 3) **A few factious, discontented, ill-natured people**, can do a great deal of mischief in the best church.
 - 4) **They talked of Egypt like they lived as princes there—the truth was that they were slaves**.
 - 5) Ungrateful people have very selective memories—they remembered the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlic; but **they do not remember the brick-kilns, the terrible task-masters, the oppression, and the stinging of their whips**.
 - 6) The manna was **supernatural bread from heaven**—the Bible calls it **angels' food**. It **was good for food**, and **pleasant to the eye**. It was **not dry bread**; it **tasted like fresh oil**. (Wisd. 16:20) = It was **pleasant** to

every man's palate. It could be prepared different ways—yielding a multiple of various dishes. **It cost them no money, nor effort**—it fell in the night, while they slept—all they had to do was go and pick it up. **They lived as freeloaders.**

- 7) The manna came **as a direct provision of God**—Yet they **speak of manna with such scorn**—“our soul is dried away”. They despised it—**they despised God’s provision. Discontented hearts will find fault with what is good!** It provokes God to **belittle His gracious provisions—nothing but manna!**
- 8) Mystery: They brought flocks and herds with them in great abundance out of Egypt. **Either they were covetous, and could not find it in their hearts to kill them, and lessen the size of their flocks or else beef and mutton would not satisfy them.** They must have something else, more pleasant and special. **Food was not sufficient; they must be feasting.** Those make themselves **very miserable** by complaining. They cried because they did have **what** they wanted **when** they wanted it.

Num 11:20(NKJ)--but for a whole month, until it comes out of your nostrils and becomes loathsome to you, because you have despised the LORD who is among you, and have wept before Him, saying, "Why did we ever come up out of Egypt?"

21 And Moses said, "The people whom I am among are **six hundred thousand men** on foot; yet You have said, 'I will give them meat, that they may eat for a whole month.'

22 **"Shall flocks and herds be slaughtered for them, to provide enough for them? Or shall all the fish of the sea be gathered together for them, to provide enough for them?"**

23 And the LORD said to Moses, **"Has the LORD'S arm been shortened?"**

Now you shall see whether what I say will happen to you or not."

[God will do what He has said!]

[God's ability to supply a miracle—was very easy, in what seemed like and impossible circumstance!]

Num 11:31--Now a wind went out from the LORD, and it brought quail from the sea and left them fluttering near the camp, **about a day's journey on this side and about a day's journey on the other side, all around the camp, and about two cubits above the surface of the ground.** (NKJ)

[20-25 miles in either direction i.e. approx. 40-50 miles of quail flying three foot above the ground.]

Num 11:32--So the people caught and killed quail all that day and through the night and all the next day too! The least anyone gathered was **100 bushels!** **Quail were spread out all around the camp.** (TLB)

Num 11:33-34--**While the meat was still between their teeth, before it was chewed,**

the anger of the LORD was kindled against the people, and the LORD struck the people with a very severe plague.

So the name of that place was called Kibroth-hattaavah

["The Place of the Graves Caused by Lust"]

because there they buried the people who had been greedy. (NAS)

[Mass funeral]

[There are many who have died spiritually because of the craving for material possessions.

Their lust for money and what it buys, becomes their grave!]

Psalm 106:13--They soon forgot His works; **they did not wait for His counsel,**

14 But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, **and tested God in the desert.**

15 And He gave them their request, **but sent leanness into their soul.** (NKJ)

Prov 23:4--Do not weary yourself to gain wealth, **cease from your consideration of it.**

5 When you set your eyes on it, **it is gone.**

For wealth certainly makes itself wings, **like an eagle that flies toward the heavens.** (NAS)

1 Tim 6:8--And having food and clothing, **with these we shall be content.**

9 But those **who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare,**

and into **many foolish and harmful lusts** which **drown men in destruction and perdition.**

10 For **the love of money** is a **root of all kinds of evil**, for which some have **strayed from the faith** in their **greediness**, and **pierced themselves through with many sorrows.**

11 But you, O man of God, **flee these things**

and **pursue** righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. (NKJ)

⇒ **Monastery Story**—Two words every 10 years: “Bad Food!” “Hard Bed!” “I Quit!”

Monsignor said, “Well you might as well quit, all you ever do is complain!”

The Ten Dangers of Complaining!

1. Complaining is **a contagious cancer**. *[It spreads (quickly or slowly) and it produces death!]*
 2. Complaining is **a double curse**—on **the one who is complaining**—and upon those he/she touches.
 3. Complainers **rob** others and themselves of **the joy of serving Jesus!**
 4. All complaints are ultimately **aimed at God and against God!**
 5. Complaining is **an act of unbelief**—of not exercising faith.
 6. Complaining is **a demonic negative spirit** causing **a negative mouth**. *(Energy Vampires)*
 7. Complaining is **the opposite of thankfulness**.
 8. The complainer **does not count his or her blessings**.
 9. **Complainers are never good at obedience!**
 10. Complainers **rarely have much production**, whether **on the job** or **in a church, or at home!**
(Quit squawking and go to work!)
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Things to be thankful for:

1. The taxes I pay, because it means that I am employed.
2. The clothes that fit a little too snug, because it means I have enough to eat.
3. The mess to clean up after a party, because it means I have been surrounded by my friends.
4. My shadow who watches me work, because it means I am out in the sunshine.
5. A lawn that needs mowing, windows that need cleaning, and gutter that need fixing, because it means I have a home.
6. All the complaining I hear about our government, because it means we have freedom of speech.
7. The space I find at the far end of the parking lot, because it means I am capable of walking.
8. My high heating bill, because it means I am warm.
9. The man behind me in church who sings off key, because it means I can hear.
10. The piles of laundry and ironing, because it means I have clothes to wear.
11. Weariness and aching muscles at the end of the day, because it means I have been productive.
12. The alarm that goes off in the early morning, because it means that I am alive.