

Session #4
“The Shoes: Following Christ Amid Trials and Tribulations”

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“Confessing the Sin of Grumbling”

When our crying is an expression of _____, it’s directed at the _____ and expressed in _____.

When our crying is an expression of _____, it’s directed at the _____ and expressed in _____.

Ungodly crying is a form of complaining (venting) whereas godly crying is a form of lamenting.

“We must not grumble, as some of them did” (1 Cor. 10:10). See Ex. 15:24; 16:2; 17:3; Num. 11:2; 14:2; 16:41.

1. What is grumbling?

It’s “the scum of discontent” and “the vent of impatience” (Thomas Manton). It’s complaining about God rather than to God.

2. What causes grumbling?

_____. We set a high price upon ourselves.

_____. We resent inconveniences.

_____. We think we deserve more or deserve better.

_____. We desire something too much.

_____. We don’t believe God’s promises. “They despised the pleasant land, having no faith in his promise. They murmured in their tents and did not obey the voice of the LORD” (Ps. 106:24–25). See Ps. 78:22, 32. When they’re hungry, they grumble. When they’re thirsty, they grumble. When they’re tired, they grumble. When they see enemies, they grumble.

“They could not believe that the wilderness was the way to Canaan.”
 – Thomas Manton

3. Why is grumbling so serious?

The Israelites “were destroyed by the Destroyer” (1 Cor. 10:10). See Num. 14:27.

- It tests _____. It’s related to putting God to the test (1 Cor. 10:9). Murmuring denies God’s sovereignty, power, wisdom, and goodness.
- It disturbs _____. Grumbling is contagious. “For lack of wood the fire goes out, and where there is no whisperer, quarreling ceases” (Prov. 26:20).
- It injures _____. Most of our miseries stem from discontentment. “Do all things without grumbling” (Phil. 2:12). It’s one of the greatest impediments to spiritual growth.

4. What is the remedy for grumbling?

(1) *We need to look* _____

The Israelites’ grumbling is madness. They witness the plagues in Egypt, the pillar of cloud and fire, the parting of the sea, the miraculous provision of food and water, but they’re unaffected.

(2) *We need to look* _____

The Israelites aren’t alone. When they left Egypt, “a mixed multitude also went up with them” (Ex. 12:38). This multitude stirs up trouble.

We must not to listen to the rabble. “These are grumblers, malcontents, following their own sinful desires” (Jude 16). If we listen to them, we’ll find ourselves adopting the same critical spirit.

(3) *We need to look* _____

The Israelites forgot so quickly. There were inconveniences in the wilderness, but these were nothing in comparison to what they suffered in Egypt – slavery, etc. God commands Moses to keep an *omer* of manna (about two quarts) as a reminder of His faithfulness (Ex. 16:32–33). It never rots. This is a miracle, but the Israelites are blind to it.

“A good memory is a help to thankfulness.” – Thomas Manton

(4) *We need to look* _____

The Israelites are constantly looking back to Egypt (Ex. 16:3). Where should they be looking? “I promise that I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to ... a land flowing with milk and honey” (Ex. 3:17).

We'll never be faithful in the present if we're still yearning for Egypt. "But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance" (Rom. 8:25).

(5) *We need to look* _____

Contentment is not determined by our circumstances, but by what we believe. We must find our ultimate joy in Christ.

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"Developing Habits of Thinking"

Remembering opens the door between the head and the heart, whereby the Holy Spirit makes deep impressions upon our affections.

1. _____

"It is a myth that faith is always smiling. The truth is that faith often feels like the very ordinary process of dragging one foot in front of the other" (Ed Welch).

2. _____

When emotions take over, we're in a difficult place indeed. We no longer engage in calm reflection, review our past blessings, or anticipate our future inheritance.

3. _____

"I don't deserve this." "I never thought this would happen to me." "This isn't the way it's supposed to be."

4. _____

There's only thing (person) that will make us happy whatever our circumstances: "You are my Lord, my goodness is nothing apart from you" (Ps. 16:2).

5. _____

God holds us with a strong arm, even when we feel little joy and sense little assurance. He carries us with a mighty hand, even when we limp through life barely able to see beyond our struggles. He's our Father whose "steadfast love is great above the heavens" (Ps. 108:4).

6. _____

We must learn to do this with small things, thereby building up to bigger things.

7. _____

“Give me life according to your word” (Ps. 119:25). “Strengthen me according to your word” (Ps. 119:28). The Spirit of God works through the Word of God – i.e., the mean of grace.

8. _____

“Disciplined, thoughtful, prayerful study of God’s Word, undertaken with the Spirit’s help, is what we need. It will change the way we think, and consequently the way we live, and ultimately the way we feel” (Sinclair Ferguson).

9. _____

We need to be doing something that forces us to think of someone else.

10. _____

Christ trusted in God’s lovingkindness. He rejoiced in God’s salvation. He delighted in God’s goodness. Moreover, Christ revealed God’s lovingkindness, God’s salvation, and God’s goodness. He’s the pledge of God’s favor toward us. He’s the reason we can be sure that God’s hasn’t forgotten us. He’s the reason we can be sure that God will never leave us nor forsake us.

(1) We look to Christ as “_____” (Jer. 23:6).

(2) We look to Christ as “_____” (1 John 2:1).

(3) We look to Christ as “_____” (Heb.12:1–2).

- His _____

- His _____

- His _____

- His _____