

SERMON SUMMARY FOR COMMUNITY GROUP LEADERS, 03/09/14

Exodus 15:21–17:7 — “Grumbling vs. God-Centered Gratitude,” Ryan Kelly

In a sentence: In the story of Israel's wilderness grumbling we have a reminder of our need for salvation and the rightness of gratitude.

SUNDAY'S OUTLINE

Five Cycles of Trial, Sin, and Provision

1. The Trial of Thirst (15:22-27)
2. The Trial of Hunger (16:1-18)
3. The Trial of Daily Provision (16:19-22)
4. The Trial of Sabbath Rest (16:23-30)
5. The Trial of Thirst...Again (17:1-7)

Four Themes for Analysis and Application

1. The Wickedness of Sin, particularly Grumbling
2. The Purpose of God in Trial and Provision
3. The Only Hope for Grumbling Sinners
4. The Pursuit of God-Centered Gratitude

HELP FOR UNDERSTANDING AND APPLYING THE SERMON TEXT

1. Ryan began his sermon by saying that grumbling makes a lot of sense. In what sense is that so? The Israelites had some reasons they gave for why they wanted to return to Egypt. What were those reasons?
2. What things do you grumble about in general? What specific things have you grumbled about this week? Did this sermon turn up any long-neglected sins of grumbling in your heart, and what were they?
3. Most grumbling is about things that happen on the horizontal level of life: our jobs, relationships, missed opportunities, our health, etc. But the text and this sermon made a point about these seemingly horizontal grumbings (15:7, 8; 17:7). How does this insight shed new light on to the nature of a specific complaint you've been repeating in your head or out loud?
4. Ryan said that grumbling is hardly objective. How is this true in the story? How is this true in your life? What reality are you having to deny in order to justify your grumbling?
5. How did God reveal the sin of mistrust and discontent to Israel in the wilderness? When did Jesus undergo a similar test and what does this teach us about what Christ came to do.
6. There may be some things you weren't willing to share with the group, and that's understandable. Seek someone out and confess your sin to them. And if your grumbling has hurt someone, repent, confess, and ask their forgiveness.

QUOTES, ILLUSTRATIONS, AND OTHER MATERIAL FROM THE SERMON

- C.H. Spurgeon: “He could have made everything we see an eye sore, he could have made everything we hear a discord, he could have made everything we smell a stench, everything we taste bitter, everything we touched a prick.”