

Complaining & Negativity in the Service

Mark 8

19 When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of fragments did you take up?” They said to Him, “Twelve.”
20 “Also, when I broke the seven for the four thousand, how many large baskets full of fragments did you take up?” And they said, “Seven.”
21 So He said to them, “How is it you do not understand?”

Possible Causes of Complaining & Negativity

1. We forgot God's mercies
2. Foolish Comparisons
3. Greed
4. Weak faith
5. Pride
6. And more...

Dangers of Complaining & Negativity

1. Depression
2. Can reach the point of blasphemy
3. It's contagious
4. It quenches / stifles the Spirit (1 Thes. 5:19)
5. It wastes (& causes the loss of) Blessings
6. Worst of all... God's wrath & loss of salvation!

1 Cor. 10:10

Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, 2 all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, 3 all ate the same spiritual food, 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. 5 But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.... 10 nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer. 11 Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

The C & N in Numbers 13

31 But the men who had gone up with him said, “We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we.” 32 And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out و, saying, “The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature. 33 There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.” هَكَذَا تَبَّطُوا بِكَلَامِهِمْ هَذَا عَزِيمَةَ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ بِشَأْنِ
(vs.32) الأَرْضِ الَّتِي اسْتَكْشَفُوهَا

The Result in Numbers 14

So **all** the congregation lifted up their voices and **cried**, and the people **wept** that night. 2 **And all the children of Israel complained** against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, “If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness! 3 Why has the Lord brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?” 4 **So they said to one another**, “Let us select a leader and return to Egypt.”

Solutions & Remedies to C & N

1. Keep track (notebook/prayer → brushing teeth)
2. Speak → Positivity is contagious too
3. Self Awareness → Watch the heart
4. If must compare → do it right
5. Remember your sins & shortcomings
6. Thank God for blessing others!
7. Resist complaining with prayer (remembering verses like Romans 8:28 & James 1:2...etc)
8. In general look ahead → **I keep pressing on reaching forward to those things which are ahead. (Phil 3:13)**

Someone is complaining because...

1. His investments only broke even while he's used to about 10% per year
2. His investments went negative a little this year
3. He lost all his investments that he's been saving for about 20 years
4. His work is very difficult and the pay is low...
5. There are layoffs and he may have to find another job soon
6. He hasn't been able to find a nice job, he can only find low paying jobs or extra hard jobs
7. He can't find any jobs at all and his savings are starting to run out
8. He has no job or savings & has to rely on government or the church ...
9. He's handicapped and has to rely on his family to care for him...
10. He's terminally ill and has only a few weeks to live, Alone... no family

Complaining & Negativity re: Service → it gets taken away from you AND

1. You're completely out of the service & Company of servants!
2. You lost the delight of knowing that you are affecting the lives of so many of God's children maybe for generations to come
3. You lost the possibility serving someone who ended up being a monk or a nun or a bishop or a mom or a dad or a servant and that you had some influence on him or her
4. You lost the possibility of being a major factor in redirecting the life of a child who was heading down the wrong path
5. You lost the privilege of being on the front lines of the battle and watching our Commander Warrior in action
6. You lost His graces from your &/or your family's life
7. You lost the reward of serving God's children. The One Who does not forget even a cup of cold water offered.