



Lesson #7: Is the Lord Among Us, or Not? (Exodus 17:7)

Exodus follows Israel's _____ as a people. In this book they go from pathetic, suffering slaves to God's own people bound for a Promised Land. This is a stark change. But as with any huge chance a choice must be made. **You can follow God forward, or you can _____ your way backwards.**

In Exodus 17 we discover 2 different groups of people.

1. THE GOD-FOLLOWERS – “_____ the congregation of the children of Israel journeyed ... according to the commandment of the Lord.” (17:1)
2. THE GRUMBLERS – “Wherefore the people did _____ with Moses, and said, Give us water that we may drink.” (17:2)

These two groups demonstrate a truth that we all know to be true even in our own lives. You see, we can have an easy time following God's commands until there is a _____. In this case the problem was thirst. The people now begin to question God, “Where is God?” Was God there? Certainly God was there, but the people could not get their eyes off their problems long enough to see Him.

THE _____ OF A GRUMBLER

Who are the types of people that grumble, murmur, and complain?

A. Those who don't move _____ are the first to complain

The children of Israel were forever grumbling about something.

- Exodus 14:11 – “Wherefore has thou dealt with us, to carry us forth out of _____.”
- Exodus 15:24 – “And the people _____ against Moses, saying, what shall we drink?”
- Exodus 16:2 – “The whole congregation of Israel _____ against Moses and Aaron.”

These were the very people chosen by God to be “His People” and yet they are refusing to move forward by faith.

B. Those who don't live God _____ are the first to complain

Instead of looking for a solution, the people complained. This complaining tested Moses' patience and it tested God's _____. Murmuring and complaining is an attitude that God is _____ in difficulties.

THE _____ ATTITUDE OF A GRUMBLER

When you deal with complainers, grippers, and whiners the best thing you can do is take it to God first just as Moses did in Exodus 17:4. But, when you compare this incident with the one found in Numbers 20, the difference in how Moses reacts to the people's complaints is stunning.

In Numbers 20 the people were once again grumbling, but this time Moses became _____. Instead of listening to God and being a God-follower, Moses switched camps and became a _____.

A. Grumbling preys upon our _____

When Moses struck the rock in Numbers 20 rather than speak to the rock as God commanded, Moses _____ to be God. Often we grumble and complain precisely because things aren't going our way. But the moment you try and usurp God's authority in your life is the moment you have switched from God-follower to gripper.

B. Grumbling preys upon our _____

Moses became angry in Numbers 20 and grumbled to the people. Rather than bringing his requests to God like he did in Exodus 17, he _____ before the people.

THE _____ FOR THE GRUMBLER

The rod Moses was asked to strike the rock with in Exodus 17:6 will play an important role throughout this passage. In fact, it serves as an object lesson that actually introduces a new name for God (_____ - _____). It is in this name that we find the cure for the grumbler.

A. _____ with God for a cure

Immediately following the account of the water from the rock we read in verse 8 that Amalek has come to war with Israel. Moses now recognized that if the battle were to be won divine sovereignty and human responsibility would need to be linked. Therefore, while the _____ was to be in Joshua's hand the _____ would be in Moses' hand (Numbers 17:9).

B. _____ God for a cure

The children of Israel find victory over the Amalekites and God tells Moses to never forget what had been done (Numbers 17:14). Moses is commanded to worship God by thinking on God. When God is at the forefront of our thoughts and we live in a constant state of worship, petty problems that cause us to grumble suddenly seem _____.

Concluding Thoughts

Sadly, there are many Christians who have been freed from the enslavement of sin and yet they still wander unsure how to live life as a free, redeemed soul. Rather than basking in the glory of their redemption they instead _____ and _____. In Exodus 17 two groups are addressed (God-followers and Grippers). Which group are you in?