

Lord, Change my
ATTITUDE

FROM COMPLAINING TO ...

Luke 1:8 – 20, 24 - 25



KEY POINTS

1. Complaining is a **choice that reveals our attitude about life.**
2. Complaining is a **sin.**
3. Complaining is a **choice that inflicts pain.**
4. Complaining is a **moment by moment decision that constructs our attitude.**

KEY DEFINITIONS

- **Attitude** – a pattern of thinking that has developed over an extended period of time.
- **Complaining** – expression of dissatisfaction about a state of affairs or an event.
- **Resource**: “Lord Change My Attitude Before it is too Late” James McDonald.

- “Complaining is an attitude choice that if left unchecked will wither my capacity to experience joy and genuine thankfulness.”
- James McDonald, “Lord Change My Attitude before its too Late.”

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE
YOUR PATTERNS OF THINKING?

- A. How often do you complain about:
work, teacher, weather, traffic,
budget shortage, spouse, children,
church, teenagers?
- B. What are you most likely to
complain about this Christmas?
- C. Do you experience the joy of the
Lord, regularly in your life?

1. COMPLAINING IS A CHOICE THAT REVEALS OUR ATTITUDE ABOUT LIFE.

A. James McDonald. "Complaining is an attitude choice that if left unchecked will wither my capacity to experience joy and genuine thankfulness."

- James McDonald, "Lord Change My Attitude before its too Late."

B. Chuck Swindall quote.

C. Flat tire comparison.

- Observation reveals a nail.
- Complaining reveals the presence of a "nail."

THEY HAD LOST HOPE.
HOPELESSNESS PUSHED GOD OUT
AND SELF TOOK GOD'S PLACE.

- A. Unanswered prayers; griefs not resolved.
 - B. Victims of the rumor mill before.
 - C. Adversity, direct and indirect.
 - D. Life's adversities have born fruit in hopelessness and hopelessness in complaining.
- Phil 2:5 – God begins w someone to heal.

2. COMPLAINING IS A SIN.

A. Zacharias is judged. James 5:9

B. People of Israel are judged.

- Numbers 11:1, 14:1f
- Is it possible that you are missing God's miracle because of your attitude?

C. Christians are instructed to learn from Israel's sin.

- 1 Cor 10:10-11

NUMBERS 11:1

- Numbers 11:1 Now the people became like those who **complain of adversity** in the hearing of the LORD; **and when the LORD heard it, His anger was kindled**, and the fire of the LORD burned among them and consumed some of the outskirts of the camp. (NAS)

WHY IS GOD "ANGRY" ABOUT
THOSE WHO "COMPLAIN ABOUT
ADVERSITY"?

- A. Everyone has adversity. Matt 5:45, John 16:33
- B. Ultimately against God (unless my complaining is against sin).
- C. Implication is that God does not know what He is doing.
 - Child that complains about everything.

1 COR. 10:10-11

- 1 Cor. 10:10-11 Nor grumble [complain], as some of them did [Israel in wilderness], and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹ Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. (NAS)

JAMES 5:9

- Jas. 5:9 Do not complain, brethren, against one another, that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door. (NAS)

3. COMPLAINING (WO ACTION)
IS A CHOICE THAT INFLICTS
PAIN.

- A. It hurts us. We choose a response to life that makes us like "Charlie Brown." May lead to bitterness. Heb 12:15
- B. It hurts others; "stinking thinking" is contagious. James 5:9, Heb 12:15
- C. It calls God's sovereignty into question. It says, "You blew it, God."
- D. Complaining is "stinking thinking."

4. COMPLAINING IS A MOMENT BY
MOMENT DECISION THAT
CONSTRUCTS OUR ATTITUDE.

- A. **Blinds us** to what we actually have to be thankful about. People of Israel.
- B. **Causes us to blame** rather than take responsibility for what we complain about.
- C. Complaining **feeds the self** because it is totally self focused. Inability to be satisfied.

NEXT STEPS

1. Are you a complainer? Ask someone who will give you a truthful response.
2. Ask God to reveal the root of your complaining.

NEXT STEPS

3. We must respond to our “stinking thinking” as a sin to be repented of. Pray this prayer:

“Father, I ask that you reveal “complaining” to me. I ask you to help me to see it every time I think it. I choose today to repent of complaining because it calls you into question and your involvement in my life into question. Forgive me.”

