

FROM COMPLAINING TO THANKSGIVING

Luke 1:57-66

“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.”

TODAY'S KEY POINTS

1. A complaining attitude must be addressed spiritually to be changed.
2. Wrong Attitudes must be replaced with their opposites.
Complaints:thanks.
3. "Thanks" is a decision based in reality. So is complaining. Which will we choose?

1. A COMPLAINING ATTITUDE MUST BE ADDRESSED SPIRITUALLY TO BE CHANGED.

A. Zacharias – is it circumstances or finding **peace in God** that made the difference?

- 1:45, 1:68-79, Israel not Zacharias/Eliz.
- **True peace is in a Person.**
 - John 16:33 "...that **in Me** you **may have peace**. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33); Luke 1:79; Ps 23:4

DO MIRACLES (CHANGE IN
CIRCUMSTANCES) REALLY MAKE
AN UNBELIEVING HEART,
BELIEVING?

A. If miracles always change
hearts, why this?

1. King of Egypt never came to God.
2. Adam (& Eve) still ate the fruit.
3. Israel still spent 40 years in
wilderness.
4. The Scribes & Pharisees? Judas?
John 2:23f

B. His attitude changed because
his heart had been changed by
repentance and restoration.

2. WRONG ATTITUDES MUST BE REPLACED
WITH THEIR OPPOSITES.
COMPLAINTS: THANKS.

A. Zacharias – complaining
replaced with a praise of
honor & thanks.

B. Phil 2: 5-7

C. Charlie Brown video – Charlie
vs Linus.

- Linus took the "wilt out of tree"
- Can't complain and give thanks
at same time. We have to choose
which to do.

EPHESIANS 4:29

- Let no **unwholesome word** proceed from your mouth, but **only such a word as is good for edification** according to the need of *the moment*, that it may **give grace to those who hear**.

COLOSSIANS 4:6

- Let your speech *always be with grace, seasoned, as it were, with salt*, so that you may know how you should respond to each person.

3. "THANKS" IS A DECISION BASED IN
REALITY. SO IS COMPLAINING. WHICH
WILL WE CHOOSE?

- John 16:33
- Ps 107:8, 15, 21, 31 "Oh that men
would give thanks to the LORD for His
lovingkindness, And for His wonders
to the sons of men! (NKJV)
- 1Th 5:18 in everything give thanks; for
this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

PASSAGES ON THANKS

- Heb. 13:15
- Phil 4:6
- Col 3:17
- Eph 5:20

4. WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT MY DAILY COMPLAINTS?

- Is there anything I can do about what I am complaining about?
 1. If no, accept it and replace the complaint with a "thanks" and faith in God.
 2. If yes, do it. Combine my action and my prayers so that God is the author of change in my life.

NEXT STEPS

1. Are you a complainer or a "thanker"? Ask someone who will give you a truthful response.
2. Am I noticing the blessings of God in my life, regularly? Am I looking for them?
3. Think about something you complained about recently. Did you do something about it? If not, how can you replace your "stinking thinking" with "gratitude thinking"?

NEXT STEPS

4. Start a spiritual war against complaining:
 - At the top of a page write the following:
 - **"5 Things I am Thankful for"**
 - Write the same statement six rows later;
 - Repeat the step again six rows later.
 - Make 122 copies of the sheet.
 - Start your day completing the list.
 - (From James McDonalds' book)