Grumbling and Complaining
Numbers 11:1-6, 10-15
SS Lesson for 08/02/2009

Devotional Scripture: Job 42:1-6

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Overview and Approach to Lesson

The outline of the lesson came from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator. This week's lesson examines Complaining. The study's aim is to be aware that we have a natural tendency to forget God's blessings and become resentful when we do not get all we desire. The study's application is to learn and express the virtue of thankfulness and gratitude.

Lesson Introduction and Background

From the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary

Complaint Department

Does your church have a complaint department? Unfortunately, most churches do have such a department, which is staffed by one person: the preacher. The preacher hears it all. The music is too loud. The church is cold (or hot). The sermon was too long. There is a misspelled word in the bulletin. There’s no toilet paper in the men’s restroom. Someone left a light on downstairs. The new carpet is a dreadful color. And on and on and on. People sure seem to find plenty to complain about! Traffic, coworkers, weather—you name it, and there is someone ready to grumble. This complaining occurs in the most technologically advanced, prosperous, and safest society that has ever existed in the history of the world! Complaining has a long and extensive history. The Bible itself is full of complainers and grippers. One of the more startling examples, though, is found in the history of Israel during God’s transplanting of the nation from Egyptian bondage to the promised land. The Israelites were promised a place that flowed with milk and honey. But when we read the book of Numbers, we are tempted to conclude that the Israelites spent most of the time griping and grumbling on the way there. This lesson will look at one such incident. By examining it, we will better understand God’s perspective on our complaining.

Lesson Background

The book of Numbers takes up the story of Israel a little more than a year after the departure from Egypt (Numbers 1:1), or about 1445 BC. The nation was still encamped in the “Desert of Sinai,” meaning the area around Mount Sinai where Moses received the tablets of stone from the Lord (Exodus 24:12; 31:18). The book of Numbers derives its name from the lengthy census data that occupies the first few chapters. Yet there is much more to the book than lists of numbers and names. It has a great deal of narrative, telling the story of the various adventures of Israel while in the wilderness period. Moses was clearly the leader of the nation, although his leadership was challenged from time to time (as in today’s lesson). Within a few weeks of the beginning of the book of Numbers, the Israelites left the area around Sinai and relocated to the “Desert of Paran” (Numbers 10:11, 12). Eventually, they seemed to settle in the “Desert of Zin” at a place named Kadesh (Numbers 20:1, compare Deuteronomy 1:46). This exact location is unknown today, but it would have been somewhere in the southern extremity of modern Israel, perhaps in the vicinity of the town of Beersheba. Israel at this time was a very large group of people, with traditional estimates placing their number at more than two million. To camp in such an isolated place created enormous logistical problems in meeting daily needs for food and water. The food needs were met through a miraculous provision of God called manna. This was a bread-like substance that appeared in the camp in sufficient quantities to feed everyone. Manna was white and had a honey-like flavor (Exodus 16:31). It was processed in various ways and seemed to have had oil within it (see Number 11:8). This was Israel’s primary diet for the 40 years in the wilderness before entry into the promised land (Exodus 16:35). God also made miraculous provision at various times for the people to have water while in the wilderness (example: Exodus 17:1–7). We can imagine that this was a terribly frustrating period for many Israelites. True, they had been rescued from being a nation of slaves and had witnessed mighty acts of God in their deliverance. But few people play the waiting game very well. The Israelites found themselves parked in the middle of nowhere (literally) without a clear understanding of their future. Their focus quickly shifted...
away from God and his mighty works to their own plight. This is the backdrop for today’s lesson, where the focus of grumbling was the marvelous manna itself.

**From the Bible Expositor and Illuminator**

Are you a complainer? Most of us do not like to think of ourselves as complainers but rather as people who just see things realistically. If we were to ask those close to us, though, we might get a different opinion! The truth is, most of us do our share of complaining, and we generally think it is quite justifiable. But if we looked honestly at our complaints, we might be surprised to discover that they are prompted by previous negative biases and not by legitimate concerns at all. People who work in the customer service department of a business usually have to field customer complaints. In general, these employees had nothing to do with creating the problems they hear about. Such an unenviable position is similar to Moses’ situation. He often bore the brunt of the complaints of the people of Israel. When the people complained about Moses, however, they were actually complaining about God, for He had appointed Moses as their leader. God had blessed the Israelites by delivering them from Egypt, giving them His law at Mount Sinai, and supplying manna to eat in the wilderness. However, His people fell into complaining, rebellion, and unbelief. He called them to choose life, but they headed in the wrong direction. Most of that generation perished in the wilderness rather than enter the Promised Land. Sometimes we may picture God as so high and mighty that He lacks emotions, but this is not true. He loves righteousness but hates evil. He can be pleased or angry. He can be joyful or sad. His Son wept after Lazarus died (John 11:35). In this lesson's text we learn that the Lord was so displeased with complaining Israel that He sent a consuming fire to slay those on the perimeter of the Israelite camp. Those living in the center were endangered.

**Major Theme Analysis**

*(Scriptural Text from the New King James Version; cross-references from the NIV)*

**God’s Displeasure of Complaining (Num 11:1-3)**

1 Now when the people complained, it displeased the Lord; for the Lord heard it, and His anger was aroused. So the fire of the Lord burned among them, and consumed some in the outskirts of the camp.
2 Then the people cried out to Moses, and when Moses prayed to the Lord, the fire was quenched.
3 So he called the name of the place Taberah, because the fire of the Lord had burned among them.

**Complaining angers God (1)**

*Angers God because it is treating God with contempt (Num 14:11)*

11 The Lord said to Moses, "How long will these people treat me with contempt? How long will they refuse to believe in me, in spite of all the miraculous signs I have performed among them?"

*Angers God because it displays disbelief in God (Ps 78:21-22)*

21 When the Lord heard them, he was very angry; his fire broke out against Jacob, and his wrath rose against Israel, 22 for they did not believe in God or trust in his deliverance.

*Angers God because it is not wise (Eccl 7:10)*

10 Do not say, "Why were the old days better than these?" For it is not wise to ask such questions.

*Angers God because God has the authority and power to do whatever pleases Him (Rom 9:19-21)*

19 One of you will say to me: "Then why does God still blame us? For who resists his will?" 20 But who are you, O man, to talk back to God? "Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, ‘Why did you make me like this?’" 21 Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use?
Angers God because it causes one to miss the lesson or teaching of God (Luke 10:40-42)
40 But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" 41 "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

God punishes complaining (1)

God punishes complaining because it is part of the consequences of sin (Lam 3:39-40)
39 Why should any living man complain when punished for his sins? Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the Lord.

God punishes complaining because it is rebellion (Num 17:10)
10 The Lord said to Moses, "Put back Aaron's staff in front of the Testimony, to be kept as a sign to the rebellious. This will put an end to their grumbling against me, so that they will not die."

God punishes complaining because we are commanded not to complain (1 Cor 10:10)
10 And do not grumble, as some of them did — and were killed by the destroying angel.

God punishes complaining because it is vile (Isa 9:17)
17 Therefore the Lord will take no pleasure in the young men, nor will he pity the fatherless and widows, for everyone is ungodly and wicked, every mouth speaks vileness. Yet for all this, his anger is not turned away, his hand is still upraised.

Prayer is needed to quench God's anger (2-3)

Prayer is needed because God can meet all our needs (Phil 4:19)
19 And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

Prayer is needed because God is our shepherd (Ps 23:1)
23 The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.

Prayer is needed to seek God's kingdom (Luke 12:31)
31 But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

Prayer is needed because God is able to provide at all times (2 Cor 9:8)
8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

The People's Dissatisfaction Causing Complaining (Num 11:4-6)
4 Now the mixed multitude who were among them yielded to intense craving; so the children of Israel also wept again and said: "Who will give us meat to eat?
5 We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic;
6 but now our whole being is dried up; there is nothing at all except this manna before our eyes!"
Man's desires causes complaining (4)

Desires of wanting to follow our own evil desires (Jude 1:16)

16 These men are grumblers and faultfinders; they follow their own evil desires; they boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage.

Desires that choke God's word in us and makes us unfruitful (Mark 4:19)

19 but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful.

Desires that sometimes degrades our body (Rom 1:24)

24 Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.

Desires that offer our bodies as an instrument of wickedness (Rom 6:12-13)

12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. 13 Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.

Desires that follow the ways of this world (Eph 2:1-3)

2 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.

Desires that belong to our earthly/sinful nature (Col 3:5)

5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

Desires that cause fights and quarrels (James 4:1)

4 What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?

Looking to the past causes complaining (5)

Don't look to the past because the future has a surpassing glory (2 Cor 3:10-11)

10 For what was glorious has no glory now in comparison with the surpassing glory. 11 And if what was fading away came with glory, how much greater is the glory of that which lasts!

Don't look to the past because we are a new creation and the old should be gone (2 Cor 5:17)

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

Don't look to the past because we need to press on toward the future goal of glorification (Phil 3:13)

13 Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead,

Don't look to the past because anyone who looks back is not fit for the service of God (Luke 9:62)

62 Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."
Don't look to the past because life is nothing if we don't complete the task God has assigned us (Acts 20:24)

24 However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me — the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.

Greed causes complaining (6)

Greed that manifests itself through unrighteousness and injustice (Jer 22:13-14)

13 "Woe to him who builds his palace by unrighteousness, his upper rooms by injustice, making his countrymen work for nothing, not paying them for their labor. 14 He says, 'I will build myself a great palace with spacious upper rooms.' So he makes large windows in it, panels it with cedar and decorates it in red.

Greed that manifests itself through property gained using fraud (Mic 2:2)

2 They covet fields and seize them, and houses, and take them. They defraud a man of his home, a fellowman of his inheritance.

Greed that manifests itself through unjustly trying to escape ruin (Hab 2:9-12)

9 "Woe to him who builds his realm by unjust gain to set his nest on high, to escape the clutches of ruin! 10 You have plotted the ruin of many peoples, shaming your own house and forfeiting your life. 11 The stones of the wall will cry out, and the beams of the woodwork will echo it. 12 "Woe to him who builds a city with bloodshed and establishes a town by crime!

Greed that manifests itself through obtaining illegal possessions (1 Kings 21:16-19)

16 When Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, he got up and went down to take possession of Naboth's vineyard. 17 Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite: 18 "Go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, who rules in Samaria. He is now in Naboth's vineyard, where he has gone to take possession of it. 19 Say to him, 'This is what the Lord says: Have you not murdered a man and seized his property?' Then say to him, 'This is what the Lord says: In the place where dogs licked up Naboth's blood, dogs will lick up your blood — yes, yours!"

Greed brings trouble to the family (Prov 15:27)

27 A greedy man brings trouble to his family, but he who hates bribes will live.

Greed that manifests itself through discontent with current possessions (Eccl 4:8)

8 There was a man all alone; he had neither son nor brother. There was no end to his toil, yet his eyes were not content with his wealth. "For whom am I toiling," he asked, "and why am I depriving myself of enjoyment?" This too is meaningless — a miserable business!

Greed that manifests itself through trying to get rich the wrong way (1 Tim 6:9)

9 People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction.

Moses' Depression over Complaining (Num 11:10-15)

10 Then Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, everyone at the door of his tent; and the anger of the Lord was greatly aroused; Moses also was displeased.
11 So Moses said to the Lord, "Why have You afflicted Your servant? And why have I not found favor in Your sight, that You have laid the burden of all these people on me?"
12 Did I conceive all these people? Did I beget them, that You should say to me, 'Carry them in your bosom, as a guardian carries a nursing child,' to the land which You swore to their fathers?
13 Where am I to get meat to give to all these people? For they weep all over me, saying, 'Give us meat, that we may eat.'
14 I am not able to bear all these people alone, because the burden is too heavy for me.
15 If You treat me like this, please kill me here and now — if I have found favor in Your sight — and do not let me see my wretchedness!"

**Depressed over mass discontentment (10-11)**

*Discontentment that results in disorder and wickedness because it always comes from the influence of Satan (James 3:14-16)*

14 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. 15 Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. 16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

*The Bible teaches that instead of being full of envy and discontent, we should be content with what we have because God will never forsake us (Heb 13:5)*

5 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

*Discontentment says that regardless of what we have, we will never have enough to be satisfied (Eccl 5:10-11)*

10 Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless. 11 As goods increase, so do those who consume them. And what benefit are they to the owner except to feast his eyes on them?

*It is better to have a little and be content in God (Ps 37:16-17)*

16 Better the little that the righteous have than the wealth of many wicked; 17 for the power of the wicked will be broken, but the Lord upholds the righteous.

*Contentment in God leads to godliness and satisfaction (1 Tim 6:6-7)*

6 But godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.

**Depressed over lack of control (12-14)**

*Lack of control over situations (James 4:13-17)*

13 Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." 14 Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. 15 Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." 16 As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil. 17 Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.

*Lack of control over the future (Luke 12:18-20)*

18 "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 19 And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry."' 20 "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?"
Lack of control of God's plans for us (Ps 135:6)

6 The Lord does whatever pleases him, in the heavens and on the earth, in the seas and all their depths.

Lack of control over our plans (Prov 16:9)

9 In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps.

Depressed to the point of giving up (15)

At the point of giving up because of illness (Job 3:1-4)

After this, Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth. 2 He said: 3 "May the day of my birth perish, and the night it was said, 'A boy is born!' 4 That day — may it turn to darkness; may God above not care about it; may no light shine upon it.

At the point of giving up because of anger (Jonah 4:1-5)

4 But Jonah was greatly displeased and became angry. 2 He prayed to the Lord, "O Lord, is this not what I said when I was still at home? That is why I was so quick to flee to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. 3 Now, O Lord, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live." 4 But the Lord replied, "Have you any right to be angry?"

At the point of giving up because of fear (1 Kings 19:2-5)

2 So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, "May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them." 3 Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, 4 while he himself went a day's journey into the desert. He came to a broom tree, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, Lord," he said, "Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors." 5 Then he lay down under the tree and fell asleep.

At the point of giving up because of afflictions and bitterness (Lam 3:19-20)

19 I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. 20 I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me.

Conclusion and Other Thoughts

Concluding Thoughts from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary

Complaining

Don’t we have a right and an obligation to complain? We all know people who have refined their complaining skills to a very high level. They seem to enjoy complaining simply for the sake of complaining. There are limits to this, though, as the people of Israel found out while in the wilderness. God does not reward ungrateful complaining. Yet we should never hesitate to express our discouragements and hurts to the Lord, for he truly cares (1 Peter 5:7). It is difficult, however, to have much joy in our lives if we focus on our complaints. There is no more effective joy stealer than griping and grumbling. On the other hand, if we pause to reflect, then we will better appreciate the many ways God has blessed us and is blessing us.

Counting Blessings

The hymn writer Johnson Oatman, Jr. (1859–1922) advised Christians to “count your blessings, name them one by one.” Oatman knew that we would find blessings “wealth can never buy.” Our materialistic world
tends to equate blessings with wealth and abundant possessions. Yet this is not what the Bible teaches. Jesus teaches that material possessions are fleeting and perishable (Matthew 6:19–21). Jesus knows that we can become enslaved by possessions (6:24). The desire for money can become insatiable. If we go through the exercise of counting our blessings, we may list some very mundane things. We have clothes to wear. We have homes to live in. We have food to eat. But our most precious blessings are nonmaterial. In God’s economy, we are truly wealthy if we are rich in relationships. We should never take for granted the blessing of family and friends. We should never minimize the power of loving others and being loved by them. Even more important are the mighty spiritual blessings we have been given by the grace of God. He has bought our salvation through the blood of his Son, Jesus. God has given his Holy Spirit to comfort us in times of distress. He has given us his Word to guide us and help us understand his will for us. He loves us deeply. These are blessings that wealth cannot buy. When we tire, we are tempted to go into complaint mode. But we are better served and more acceptable to God if we resist this temptation and thank God for the many blessings he has showered into our lives.

Concluding Thoughts from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator

In behavior not unfamiliar to many today, Israel found it easy to complain in spite of its many blessings from the hand of God. The provision of the Lord did not meet their culinary tastes! Forgetting the struggles and trials of bondage, they remembered only the variety of food items on the menu in Egypt that they had experienced in times past. Before we throw too many stones in their direction, we may want to do some soul-searching about whether at times we have complained about something God gave us and what it was we did not like. We probably are not totally innocent in this regard. The Israelites were quick to forget the slavery, the deliverance, the commitment they had made to the Lord at Sinai, and the fact that they were on their way to the Promised Land, where each would have a place of his own in a land that flowed with milk and honey. It was a case of "What have You done for me lately, Lord?" Israel's grumbling was not at all pleasing to the Lord. Like any parent whose children become spoiled and unthankful, God reacted against their lack of gratitude. Their lack of faith also showed in their failure to trust God to provide what they needed. Their freedom, which had been their desire and the reason for their crying to the Lord while in bondage, was not appreciated very much, and to some degree they were acting the way Esau did with his birthright (cf. Gen. 25:29-34). As believers, we too can react in times of trials and testing in ways that displease the Lord as we long for the way things used to be. We need to have a longer perspective than we often do. We need to look at things from eternity's point of view. The people of Israel were immature in their faith. Immaturity can easily lead to misunderstandings, which in turn can lead to pity parties and times of complaining. As Scripture tells us, God is love (cf. 1 John 4:8). Today's Scriptural text does not diminish that truth at all. God loved His people Israel. If that had not been the case. He would have left them in bondage. But an unruly child needs chastening, and God did just that by sending fire into their midst as judgment. The thought comes to mind that Peter would put in writing centuries later. Judgment begins with the people of God (cf. 1 Pet. 4:17). They of all people should have faith in God and trust Him to provide for them. God gives His people new life and promises to care for them and meet their needs. Is it, therefore, too much to ask of His people to trust Him even when they get a bit hungry, bored, or have to suffer a little? God calls His people out of bondage to be a people for His possession and to enjoy new life in Him. As time goes by, there will be times of testing for His people. For faith to grow, it needs to be exercised and tested. As God did with Israel, so He also does with believers today. There will be times when our faith will be stretched. We do well to remember this: If everything and every part of every day were perfect, how would we learn to trust God?

Practical Points from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator

1. Few things displease the Lord more than complaining after all He has done for us (Num. 11:1-3)
2. People's memories of the so called good old days are often very selective and very wrong (vs. 4-6)
3. Complaining is a vexation both to the Lord and to spiritual leaders (vs. 10)
4. The responsibilities the Lord gives us are not always pleasant ones (vs. 11-12)
5. When the burdens we have been given to bear seem too much for us, we can still bring them to God in prayer (vs. 13-15)

**Heart of the Lesson from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator**

It is all too easy to forget what we have. Unless it is Thanksgiving season, we tend to take for granted the multitude of blessings we experience each day. The Israelites were no different from us. These two million people with their cattle followed God's leading by the pillar of cloud, but they did not like leaving Mount Sinai. God had given them the Ten Commandments there. Now it was time to move on. How would they survive?

**The people's unbelief (Num. 11:1-3)**

It did not take long before the people began complaining. The desert was a dangerous, unwelcoming place. Some thought God must have abandoned them. God's response was to consume some of them with fire. He had every right to kill all these ungrateful people, but He chose to pass judgment on just some of them to prove a point. The people's complaints were more than just idle words; they were sin. Their complaints were proof of their unbelief and rebelliousness. As he often did, Moses interceded for the people before God. He knew the people were doubting that God could really fulfill His promises.

**The people's ingratitude (Num. 11:4-6)**

The people forgot how blessed they really were. God had given them favor with the Egyptians so that they were able to bring gold and jewels with them. God parted the Red Sea and then drowned the Egyptian army. God was giving the Israelites manna every day for their food needs in the wilderness. What more could they want? They wanted meat. They wanted the vegetables they had eaten back in Egypt. Once again, they longed for Egypt. Of course, the people conveniently forgot how awful their lives in Egypt had truly been. After all, they were slaves back then! God wanted them to look ahead, not backward. He had promised them a fruitful land, their own country, where they could freely live and prosper.

**Moses cried out to God (Num. 11:10-15)**

God was angry with the Israelites. He is slow to anger, but His patience was quickly running out. Once again, Moses interceded for the people. He did not sympathize with them. Moses too was displeased with the Israelites. Moses complained to God about his frustrations with the people. He compared himself to a nursemaid who had to daily take care of small children who could not fend for themselves. Moses was reaching the end of his rope. He knew the people were restless; they thought it was taking too long to get to the Promised Land. Where would Moses find meat for all these people? The heavy burden of leading the people was weighing him down. He told God it was too hard; he wanted to leave the responsibilities behind and die. God did not become angry with Moses for all his rantings. Instead, God gave Moses some help. He instructed him to gather together seventy respected men. They would serve alongside Moses as elders over the people (Lev. 11:16-17). It is all too easy to complain about something we lack or what we have to endure in our lives. We may believe we do not have enough money or time. We may think our children are too difficult. We may have an elderly parent to whom we are now giving daily care. Whatever our lives consist of, this lesson teaches us that we need to trust God in our daily cares and worries. We must tell Him about our frustrations but we should not leave it at that. We must also give God our grateful thank for what we do have.