

# Midweek Study

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## Developing a Grateful Heart *Numbers 11:1-15*



Additional Texts: John 6:43; Lamentations 3:39; Philippians 2:14

Charles Dickens said that we are somewhat mixed up here in America. He told an audience that instead of having one Thanksgiving Day each year we should have 364. "Use that one day just for complaining and griping," he said. "Use the other 364 days to thank God each day for the many blessings He has showered upon you."

## 1. The **Problems** (*Numbers 11:1-9*)

A. We Have a **God** Problem (11:1-3) - We Are Really Complaining to God

- Numbers 11:1-3 - "Now when the people complained, it displeased the Lord; for the Lord heard it..."
- Exodus 16:8b (NKJV) - "for the Lord hears your complaints which you make against Him. And what are we? Your complaints are not against us but against the Lord."

B. We Have a **People** Problem (11:4) - We Are Listening to Others Complain

- Numbers 11:4 - "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?'"

C. We Have a **Memory** Problem (11:5-9) - We Are Not Grateful For All God HAS Done For Us

- Numbers 11:5 - "We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic"
- Numbers 11:6 - "but now our whole being is dried up; there is nothing at all except this manna before our eyes!"

## 2. The **Pain** (*Numbers 11:10-15*)

A. It Creates **Unreasonable Expectations** (11:10-12) - No One Can Please Us

- Numbers 11:10b-11 - "... Moses also was displeased. 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?'"

B. It Produces **Unbearable Pressure** (11:13-14) - No One's Best is Good Enough For Us

- Numbers 11:13-14b - "Where am I to get meat to give to all these people? ...the burden is too heavy for me."

C. It Generates **Unwanted Isolation** (11:15) - No One Wants to Be Around Us

- Numbers 11:15 - "If You treat me like this, please kill me here and now--if I have found favor in Your sight..."

## Getting a Grip on Our G-R-I-P-E-S

G - ive God His rightful place as OWNER of everything you have (**Ps. 24:1; Deut. 8:18**)

R - efuse to be around complainers and grumblers! (**1 Cor. 15:33; Prov. 13:20**)

I - nvest your time and money in people who are less fortunate. (**Jas 1:27**)

P - ractice being positive!

### *The Power Pledge (MENToring)*

*I'm too accepted to feel rejected  
I'm too blessed to be stressed*

*I'm too faithful to be fearful  
I'm too victorious to be a victim*

*I will shout and not pout  
I will shine and not whine*

*I am a child of the King,  
And a major blessing!*

E - xpress Thanks to God for His hand in your circumstances. (**1 Thess. 5:18**)

S - urround yourself with people who can help keep you accountable.