

NUMBERS 11 - WHEN GOD'S PEOPLE GRUMBLE...

INTRODUCTION:

"The grass is greener on the other side."

Correct? Or at least what we've always been tempted to believe. One of the natural tendencies we have is to compare with others, and this often leads to complaining and discontentment:

"If only I had his talents, I'd be a better leader!"

"How come my circumstances are so much harder than theirs?"

"Oh how I miss the 'good old days'; life was much easier then!"

Despite all the blessings we have in this nation, Singaporeans, just like the Jews, are quite "infamous" for our complaining. MRT break down? Complain! Chicken Rice price went up? Complain! Too hot? Complain! If we were honest, there is a lot in life we complain, or grumble about, both verbally and in our hearts.

As we look at Numbers 11, we see the people complaining to God and to Moses. It gets so bad, Moses himself begins to complain to God about "this people" (repeated 4 times in verses 11-14). Interestingly, we see God's response is quite different:

When the people grumbled, God **punished** them. (v. 1-10, 31-35)

When Moses grumbled, God **provided** for him (v. 16-17, 24-30)

Why the difference? Why was God upset with the people, and not Moses?

Devotional Sharing Outline:

3 lessons from the Israelites and Moses:

1. Don't forget to be _____. (**v. 1-10, 31-35**, cf. Psalm 103, Luke 11:2-4)
2. Don't walk _____. (**v. 11-17**, cf. 1 Kings 19:10)
3. Don't _____ God. (**v. 18-32**, cf. Joel 2:28-29; Acts 2:16-21)

Questions for Reflection:

- 1) Do I tend to have "spiritual amnesia", forgetting God's goodness in my life? During this season of Lent, how can I spend more time in gratitude?
- 2) Moses cried out to God, and God answered. Perhaps all of us need a reminder: "It's ok to not feel ok". When was the last time you cried out honestly to God?
- 3) While we all profess to have faith in God, many times doubt creeps in; we rely on our own logic. How can we learn to trust Him more in every aspect of our lives?