

Murmuring

The Apostle Paul wrote: “Do all things without murmuring” (Philippians 2:14). So, what is murmuring? Murmuring is grumbling or complaining about one’s situation in life; to be discontent; or, dissatisfaction. Murmur (Gr. *gonguzo*) is found in: Matthew 20:11; Luke 5:30; 15:2; 19:7; John 6:41,43,61; 7:32; 1 Corinthians 10:10. Murmurings (Gr. *gongusmos*) is found in: John 7:12; Acts 6:1; Philippians 2:14; 1 Peter 4:9. Murmurers (Gr. *gongustees*) is found in: Jude 16

Who murmurs? The Israelites in the wilderness (Exodus 15:24; etc.), the Jews who did not like Jesus’ actions or his teaching (Luke 15:2; etc.), the false teachers of Jude’s day (Jude 16), and even some NT Christians (Acts 6:1; etc.).

Why do people murmur? Some lack joy (Exodus 15:24), faith (Exodus 16:3), gratitude (Numbers 11:1,6), focus (Numbers 14:2-3,36), or humility (Numbers 16:11)

Is it possible to do all things without murmuring? Yes it is! When we encounter difficult teachings (John 6:61), difficult duties (1 Peter 4:9), difficult circumstances (1 Corinthians 10:10), and difficult people (Jude 16), we can keep from murmuring. Let us see the danger of murmuring to our self and to the church. Let us remove murmuring so that we can be “blameless,” “light,” “service,” and “joy” in the Lord (Philippians 2:15-18). - *Chris Reeves*

Sentence Sermons

- Don’t choose friends by what they have, but by what they are.
- When you fear God you don’t need to fear man.
- You may be lost in sin but you don’t have to remain that way.
- It doesn’t matter what you lose if you save your soul.
- We love because he first loved us.

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Did You Fast To Me? To Me?

Speak unto all the people of the land, and to the priests, saying, When ye fasted and mourned in the fifth and in the seventh month, even these seventy years, did ye at all fast unto me, even to me?

- Zechariah 7:5 -

Background to Zechariah's Statement

God's people, the Jews, had been fasting for 70 years during the Babylonian Captivity, and now c. 518 B.C., they wanted to know if they should continue as they had been doing for so many years (7:1-3).

However, Zechariah revealed their true motive: insincere fasting for themselves and not for God (7:4-5; see Leviticus 23:27). They were thinking about themselves and not God.

In what follows, God revealed the true motive for fasting (7:8-14). Fasting was supposed to come from people who had pure hearts and lives (7:9-10). Fasting was supposed to come from humble people who wanted to hear God's word (7:11-13). God's people at this time were not this, so they would be punished (7:14).

The question before us today is

this: Why do we come together to worship? Why do we assemble on Sundays and on others occasions? Why do we engage in the "five acts of worship": preaching, singing, the Lord's supper, the contribution, and prayer? What is our motive for our worship? Is all this for us, or for God?

Why Do You Worship?

There are a number of motives that people have for worship that are not right. What is your motive? Some worship to be seen of men and not to be right with God (Matthew 6:1ff; 23:1ff).

Some worship to blindly follow human tradition or ritual and not to follow the word of God (Matthew 15:1ff; Acts 17:23).

Some, like the Pharisee, worship to compare themselves with others instead of seeing if they are right with God (Luke 18:9ff).

Some, like Ananias and Sapphira, worship to compete with others instead of directing their giving to God (Acts 5:1ff; 1 Corinthians 12-14).

Some, like the Jews of Malachi's day, worship grudgingly and to fulfill a requirement instead of enjoying it (Malachi 1:13; 3:8-9; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7).

Some want to worship the way they want - will worship - instead of worshipping the way God wants (Colossians 2:23).

Some worship to display what they have (their material possessions) instead of focusing on God (James 2:1-9).

Some, like the Ephesians, have lost their love and worship by going through the motions instead of doing it from the heart (Revelation 2:1-5).

Worship Is God-Centered

Let us always remember that worship is to be focused on God. We certainly benefit from worship, but worship is about God – **"for me ... for me"** (Zechariah 7:5). Worship is for God's honor and glory (Psalm. 95:6).

When preaching and teaching we should focus on God's word. When singing we should focus on God's name. When partaking of the Lord's supper we should focus on God's sacrifice. When we give of our contribution we should focus on God's work. When we pray we should focus on God's will. Do it "for me", God says.

- Chris Reeves -