

# S.O.H.L.

## WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

*Pronounced "Soul"*

March 19, 2012

### The "COMPLAINER"

**NUMBERS 14:1-3 NKJV** – (1) So all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night. (2) And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, "If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness! (3) Why has the LORD brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?"

**NUMBERS 12:1-2 NKJV** – (1) Then Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married; for he had married an Ethiopian woman. (2) So they said, "Has the LORD indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us also?" And the LORD heard it.

**NUMBERS 16:1-3 NKJV** – (1) Now Korah the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, with Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, and On the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took *men*; (2) and they rose up before Moses with some of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty leaders of the congregation, representatives of the congregation, men of renown. (3) They gathered together against Moses and Aaron, and said to them, "*You take* too much upon yourselves, for all the congregation *is* holy, every one of them, and the LORD *is* among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the LORD?"

The word "**complaining**" means to express negative feelings of pain, displeasure, dissatisfaction, or resentment. It's synonyms are grouchy, grumble, to whine, gripe and bellyache. It's antonyms are to applause, be content, be happy, praise, approve. Which camp do you fall in? Are you grouchy, grumpy, or a whining person; or, are you content, happy and approving? To **murmur** means to grumble or whine.

In the above text the Israelites murmured against their gracious and loving servant and / or God. Needless to say, their murmurings displeased God. Sadly, many Christians are murmurs and complainers. In the home, on the job and in the local church they grumble, murmur and complain. They can see nothing good. To them, everything is bad -- their life is miserable and they want to make it that way for everyone else. In relation to the local church, if you have a just complaint about services, the temperature of the building, the singing, the song leader, the elders, the preacher, Bible classes, etc., a concern is in order. But if it is not corrected as you would have it, do not murmur. Such murmuring is wrong.

There are several examples of the sin of murmuring in the New Testament, like the parable of the laborers in the vineyard (**MATTHEW 20:1-16**). They murmured because they had worked all day while others who had worked for a shorter period received the same wages. They had received their just due but they still murmured.

The scribes and Pharisees murmured against the disciples of Jesus because they ate and drank with publicans and sinners but they were really striking out at Jesus (**LUKE 5:29-32**). They did not care that the publicans and sinners needed Jesus. They were only concerned with their personal agenda.

The Jews murmured about Jesus because He said He was the bread of life (**JOHN 6:41**). Instead of investigating His claim in an effort to know the truth, they murmured.

If we were to summarize the general tone of these examples it would be fair to conclude that when the behavior of Jesus was not according to what they thought it should be, they murmured. God does not appreciate when His children are constantly murmuring and complaining. Read the entire story of the scriptures given for today. You will find out that eventually God will respond and consequences will follow.

**SCRIPTURE READING** – PSALM 106:25 **THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK** - The doors of wisdom are never shut.

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SOHL's mission is to sow God's word into the hearts of men and women that will propel them to their God-given destiny.

