

Let Them Eat Meat

Numbers 11:1-9; 31-34

To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

1 Corinthians 9:22-23

Christianity in Japan, .0053%

	Population	Christian
Japan	123.4 M	654,200
Metro Osaka	28 M	148,400
Osaka proper	2.79 M	14,787

The Symptom, Source, and Solution for Ingratitude

1. Complaining is a Symptom of Ingratitude

Now the people complained about their hardships in the hearing of the Lord, and when he heard them his anger was aroused.

Numbers 11:1a

They said to Moses, “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? Didn’t we say to you in Egypt, ‘Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians’? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!”

Exodus 14:11-12

Complained about Poor Leadership

For three days they traveled in the desert without finding water.

When they came to Marah, they could not drink its water because it was bitter. (That is why the place is called Marah.) So the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "What are we to drink?"

Exodus 15:22-24

Complained about No Drinking Water

*In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the Lord's hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death." **Exodus 16:2-3***

Complained about No Food to Eat

So they quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink."

Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the Lord to the test?"

Exodus 17:2

Complained, No Water to drink

But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?"

Exodus 17:3

Grumbling against Moses

The rabble with them began to crave other food, and again the Israelites started wailing and said, "If only we had meat to eat!"

Numbers 11:4

Complaining over the Variety of their Food

*Now a wind went out from the Lord and drove quail in from the sea. It brought them down all around the camp to about three feet above the ground, as far as a day's walk in any direction. All that day and night and all the next day the people went out and gathered quail. **Numbers 11:31-32a***

*But while the meat was still between their teeth and before it could be consumed, the anger of the Lord burned against the people, and he struck them with a severe plague. Therefore the place was named Kibroth Hattaavah, because there they buried the people who had craved other food. **Numbers 33-34***

That night all the people of the community raised their voices and

wept aloud. All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, "If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this desert! Why is the Lord bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword?

Numbers 14:1-3a

2. Sources of Ingratitude

The Symptom, Source, and Solution for ingratitude.

**There's a direct ratio between
our level of expectation
and the degree of our
appreciation for life.**

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." **John 16:33**

Two sources of Ingratitude

- Unrealistic Expectations
- Unfair Comparisons

*We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost—also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic. **Numbers 11:5***

3. What is the Solution for Ingratitude?

*“In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” **John 16:33***

Three things we can do to avoid ungratefulness

1. Anticipate some difficulties in life
2. Acknowledge God as the source of all our daily provisions
3. Accept imperfections in people and places and still appreciate them

*Every good and perfect gift is from
above, coming down from the
Father of the heavenly lights*

James 1:17