**BIBLE - BEING DISCONTENT**

***EXODUS 16:1-3 – TEXT***

**INTRODUCTION** – Have you ever noticed there are some people who no matter how bad things seem to appear they always try to be optimistic? Then there are some who no matter how good things appear to be always seem to be discontented and complaining, mumbling and grumbling about how the world is treating them and how things are going in their life.

We make a conscience decision in life as to whether we see the glass as half full or half empty.

It has been stated that there are two types of discontent in this world – the discontent that works and the discontent that wrings its hands. The first type gets what it wants and the second loses what it had. There is no cure for the first but work and there is no cure at all for the second.

It is the second type of discontentment that we will consider in our lesson today.

**EX. 16:1-3 *- And they journeyed from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came to the Wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they departed from the land of Egypt. 2 Then the whole congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. 3 And the children of Israel said to them, "Oh, that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and when we ate bread to the full! For you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."***

After their new found freedom from Egyptian bondage that Israel had obtained you would think they would be willing to bear any burden and make any sacrifice necessary with joy and thanksgiving. Yet, only one month removed from being in Egyptian bondage their newfound liberty was not enough to keep from having a despairing and murmuring heart. Their attitude of being thankful for deliverance had disappeared. This passage helps us to understand and appreciate the unreasonableness of discontent.

***UNREASONABLE OF DISCONTENT:***

1. **DISCONTENT DOES NOT** **TRUST THE POWER OF GOD** –
   1. **EX. 12:29-30** – Israel had just seen God demonstrate his power to punish his enemies thru the 10 plagues.
   2. **EX. 14:29-31** – Israel had also seen the power of God deliver them from their enemies. In spite of this just a short time later they acted just as one might act who had never seen God demonstrate his divine power. So as their food ran out they began to complain, murmur, and did not place the proper trust in God that he has the power to provide.
   3. **PSA**. **78:40-57** – Psalmist declares the power of God
   4. **JN. 20:30-31** – What about us today? Life has not really changed all that much. Of course we do not see miracles of God being performed today but we do have a record of the miracles he has done and as a result we too can also be confident and trust that we serve a powerful God who is able to deliver us today from the attacks of Satan.
   5. **ROM. 1:16** – His divine power is available to us thru the gospel. The question is do we use that powerful tool God has given to us and can we use it effectively. **EPH. 6:17**
   6. **2 PET. 1:3-4** – God has granted unto us all things that pertain to life and godliness. So when we are faced with trials and tribulations today rather than being discontent and wringing our hands we need to turn to God’s word and read where he was faithful to use his power to deliver his people and trust in his power to provide for our needs today.
   7. **HEB. 4:16** – When we become discontent we often go to the wrong source for help. We serve a God that will provide for his people
2. **DISCONTENT MAKES US** **FORGET THE PAST GOODNESS OF** **GOD** –
   1. **EX. 1:13-14** – We must not allow for the problems of the present to allow us to become discontent. The Israelites with all their present problems could only think of the flesh pots and sweet bread given to them while in bondage in Egypt. They had soon forgotten or either dismissed the suffering, the abuse, the dishonor associated with their slavery.
   2. **EX. 2:23-25** – They seem to have forgotten that they had cried out to God to deliver them in the midst of their suffering and that he had heard their cries and delivered them and they were still discontent.
   3. **ECCL. 7:10** – Our present day attitude is not very different. Many spend their time wastefully yearning for the good old days thinking only of the pleasant times and failing to remember the problems and difficulties of the past. I am sure we all have happy memories of the past and there is certainly nothing wrong with taking pleasure in remembering them, but we have to be careful that we do not place so much emphasis on the good things of the past that we become discontent with the present.
   4. **PHIL. 3:13-14** – Every stage in life both its past and present has its good and its bad. We should not magnify the good of the past and ignore its bad or magnify the bad of the present and ignore its good. Paul reveals a simple truth for us that we cannot live in the past – forget the past.
3. **DISCONTENT MAKES US** **VENT ON THE WRONG PERSON** –
   1. **EX. 3:7-10** – It was God who sent Moses to deliver Egypt out of bondage and lead them into the promise land. It was God who decided to lead the people thru the wilderness. Moses was God’s answer to the cries of the Israelites prayers. When things do not go right we often begin to blame others men blame their wives, women blame their husbands, children blame their parents, parents blame their children, workers blame their bosses, bosses blame their workers and everybody blames the government
   2. **EX. 13:17-18** – Who did the children of Israel blame for their current condition?
   3. **ESTHER 4:14** – We need to remember the fact that we are instruments in the hand of God just like Esther. We may not always understand why God allows certain circumstances to occur in our lives. God may have placed us in a given situation God pleased with their murmuring and complaining
   4. **JAMES 1:5** – Blame at times can be well placed because we are all sinful human beings, but the fact is that nobody else controls me and as an autonomous human being I make my own choices and decisions how to react to things and so do you. That is why we should take all complaints to God and ask him to give us the wisdom to deal with them in such a way that would be pleasing to him.
   5. **PHIL. 2:14 –** We need to do all things w/o complaining or murmuring so we will not become discontent and vent our frustration on others. After all what does that truly accomplish anything positive?
   6. **HEB.** **13:5-6** – Be content and realize the Lord is our helper.

**CONCLUSION** –

Rather than being discontented we should look for the good God has placed in the world for our benefit and rejoice in it and be thankful.

All of the pain and suffering in this life in one way or another is the result of sin being in the world.

Are you discontent as a Christian?

The first step toward being content is dealing with our sin.

God in his grace has made forgiveness of sins possible thru the blood of his Son Jesus.

Obey him today