



The Sin of Murmuring

by Gene Taylor

“So all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night. 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! 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?'” (Num. 14:1-3)

In the above text the Israelites murmured against their gracious and loving God. Needless to say, their murmurings displeased Him. Sadly, many Christians are murmurers 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.

To murmur means to grumble or whine. It is not wrong to complain if correction is needed, but there should be no murmuring. The Grecian widows in Acts 6:1-5 had a just complaint. They were being neglected in the daily ministrations. It was in order for them to complain but not to murmur.

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 complaint 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 (Matt. 20:1-16). They murmured because they had worked all day while others who had worked for a much 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.

There is not a single one of us who appreciates murmurers. When another person engages in this sin, we see its ugly quality. Trust me, it does not look any better in us. Make no mistake, murmuring is sin. "Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world" (Phil. 2:14-15). "Be hospitable to one another without grumbling" (1 Pet. 4:9). It causes one to perish (1 Cor. 10:10).

Sadly, murmuring is one of the most prevalent sins among some brethren. Those who would never think of committing adultery or murder are guilty of this sin. Some who have the highest morals, adhere most closely to doctrine and are most liberal in their giving negate all the good things they do by whining. *(continued on page 3)*

STRATHMORE

SEARCHLIGHT



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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

Bible School 9:45 AM
Worship 11:00 AM
Worship 6:00 PM
Spanish Worship 3:00 PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study 7:00 PM

ELDERS

Peter Dwomoh
Steve Gill
Marvin Johnson
Moises Velasco
Jean Volcy

DEACONS

Kwabena Akuoko
Jonathan Braga
Ed Brown
Gerald Ellis
Leonardo Razon

EVANGELISTS

ENGLISH

Bob Hibbard
Max Craddock
Marlon Molina

SPANISH

Santiago Molina



2019 Theme:

We Are Therefore Christ's Ambassadors

(2 Corinthians 5:20)



SUNDAYS 2 p.m. EST
Joy TV 10
Vancouver, BC
Rogers digital—channel 173

FRIDAYS 8:30 a.m.
The Vision Network
Rogers - Channel 60
Star Choice - Channel 394
Bell Expressive - Channel 65



We are blessed by your presence today and thank you for joining us in our worship of God.

As we kneel at His feet, may your heart and mind be focused and worship Him in spirit and in truth. If you are visiting, we invite you to join us again soon.

SPEAKERS TODAY:



Williams Diogu in am; **song service** in pm; **Marlon** at Oshawa.

STATS FOR LAST WEEK:

Attendance:

Sunday AM/PM/Spanish : 177/7 /23
Bible Study: 45
Wednesday: 37

Contribution:

Offering (YTD Average) \$ 4,708.62
Offering: \$ 4,900.00
Key: \$ 135.00
Missions: \$ 25.00

SERVING NEXT WEEK

August 4 , 2019

PRESIDER:Williams D

PRAYER:.....William G

READER:.....Ayokunle A

CLOSING PRAYER: ..Kwabena A

SONG LEADER:Eldon B

Passing emblems Aug 4 & 11:

Edmund N, Joel O, Sudheer V,
Hayden J, Calvin O



Mission Trips:

Bob and **Deb Hibbard** are returning home from the Philippines this Wednesday, July 31st.. Prayers for a safe trip home appreciated.

Welcome: We welcome Ana Corpus' mother, **Josephine Teves** to Strathmore and Canada! She arrived from the Philippines on Thursday, July 25 for a visit with family in Toronto.



Outreach Ministry: The Outreach Committee met last Sunday with a plan to follow-up with those who came and took time to visit with us

during the Open House on July 6th. The committee plans for the next activity in August. Anyone willing to participate in this ministry, please connect with **Steve Gill** or **Williams Diogu**.



1. Couples Bible Study -

CANCELLED: Note that the regularly-scheduled Couples study/discussion is taking a break during

the summer months and will return in September.

2. No Summer Potlucks: Note that our monthly potlucks are cancelled for this summer and will resume in September.

3. Men's Breakfast: The August Men's Breakfast has been cancelled. Meeting is taking a break for the summer and will return September 7th.

Help Needed: The ladies from Trinidad (with two-year-old, Naomi), have asked if someone might be able to show them around the downtown (walking) just so they can familiarize themselves with the area and know where things are.



† Joel & Honey Joy Otanes and family are travelling to Las Vegas, Nevada. They plan to return home after 11 days. Prayers for safe travels appreciated.

† Mavis Stonefield had a blood transfusion and is on medication for an inflamed esophagus. She was in hospital but is back at her seniors residence (True Davidson Acres at 200 Dawes Rd – Unit 530). She would be very happy to receive visitors . Continued prayers appreciated.

† **Continue to pray for:**

Janice Lalor's niece, **Lovel Nelson** + **Victor Montano** + Hilary Charles' daughter, **Naomi** + Wanita Ellis' sister, **Joyce** (and husband **Shaun** + **Karen Jordan's** father-in-law + **Prem Tillock** + Pauline Williams' niece, **Kimberley** + Junifer Villanueva's uncle, **Zennon Uyguangco** + **Stephen** (Gerry Ellis'

brother) + **Laila** (Alexander Tenaglia's daughter) + Donna Mashinter's son, **Ryan** + **Elizabeth Alvarado** + **Henry McClure** + **Kernan Charles** + **Joyce and Shaun** + **Elias Piccone** + **Jake Castillo** (family friend of Otanes' family) + **Hildebrando Rodriguez** + **Leslie McClure** + **Doreen** (Geoff Ellis' wife) + **Louanne Pospishil** and her colleague's brother - **Cheung Yu** +her colleague Emily's father, **Doug** + **Elsie Gill** + **Roberto Alvarado** + **Judy** (Gale Arrindell's neighbour) + **Charm Swaby** + **Daniel Miranda** + Honey Joy Otanes' aunt, **Adela Nono Scharnowski** + Honey Joy's co-worker, **Savita Hardowar** + **Becky Rampersad** and her daughter, **Sacha Moon** + **Bill Craddock** + **Stephen** (Gerry's brother) + **Daphne Pegg** + **Christina** (friend of Allyne Jack) + **Mike & Sharon Hannon** and their granddaughter, **Dylan** + **Art Groom**.

The Sin of Murmuring (cont'd from back page)

Discontent causes murmuring. Christians are taught to be content with necessities (1 Tim. 6:7-8); what they have (Heb. 13:5); their lot (Phil. 4:11); and God's way (Luke 5:5). Selfishness is the second cause of murmuring (Phil. 2:4; Rom. 15:2). Selfish people want their way and do not like it one bit if they do not get it, therefore, they murmur.

Being discontent and selfish, one murmurs and whines and thus sins bringing condemnation to himself. Another product of his actions, though, is division among God's people for that is what the murmurer is trying to do—get people to become sympathetic to his point of view and antagonistic toward the other point of view. The Proverbist tells us that one of the seven things God hates is "one who sows discord among brethren" (Prov. 6:19).

Let us not murmur. Rather, let us be content in life. Let us be happy and "rejoice always in the Lord" (Phil. 4:4). Let us be thankful for our blessings and be characterized by a spirit of gratitude (1 Tim. 2:1). Let us never be selfish. Let us always regard others better than self and look out for the interests of others (Phil. 2:3-4). Let us follow the things which make for peace and let all things be done unto edifying (Rom. 14:19; 1 Cor. 14:26).

"Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you" (Eph. 4:31-32).