Study QUESTIONS

Ep. 1463: Are Christians Allowed to Complain and Are There Limits? See: https://christianquestions.com/character/1463-are-christians-allowed-to-complain/

CQ Rewind SHOW NOTES

1. What is the distinction between "grumbling" and "disputing" based on the Greek definitions of *goggusmos* and *dialogismos*? How might each of these attitudes reveal a lack of trust in God's providence? (Philippians 2:4)
2. Was the Israelites' concern upon arriving at Marah legitimate? What four commands did God gave Israel at Marah, and what promise accompanied those commands? (Exodus 15:24-27)
3. How did the concern over water at Marah change into complaints in the Wilderness of Sin? Who were the Israelites complaining against? What had they lost sight of? (Exodus 16:1-8)
4. Why did Moses rename Rephidim, the location where God provided water from the rock, Massah and Meribah? In what way did this memorialize Israel's behaviors? What was their real problem? (Exodus 17:1-7)
5. Looking at the experiences of Marah, the Wilderness of Sin and Rephidim, what evidence shows that Israel's real problem was trust rather than water or food? How can the same thing happen in our own lives?
6. When you get frustrated, do you simply bring your concerns to God looking for His guidance, or do you allow your thoughts to develop into grumbling, disputing, accusations or questions on God's care? What must you NOT lose sight of? How is grumbling a "memory problem?"
7. What does the Apostle Paul mean by "godliness accompanied by contentment is great gain"? How did he find the secret of contentment in his life of troubles? (1 Timothy 6:6-8, Philippians 4:11-13)
8. Compare the four commands God gave Israel in Exodus 15:26 with the way Jesus fulfilled them in Isaiah 6:8 and Philippians 2:5-11. What can we learn about overcoming complaining through Jesus' example of obedience?
9. Discuss the differences between reasoning, disputing and lamenting. How can we prevent our internal dialog from becoming destructive disputing? Why is lament a healthy biblical response to pain while disputing can lead us away from trust? (Philippians 2:14, Psalm 13)
10. Explain the roles of attitude and perspective in an appropriate Christian complaint. How were Jesus and Paul examples for us in this? (Ephesians 4:15, Matthew 26:39, 42-44)
11. How should we respond to anxiety, difficult people and other trials? Discuss practical ways to overcome and diffuse complaining and disputing. (Hebrews 4:15-16, 1 Peter 5:6-9, 4:8-10, James 5:9, Colossians 3:12-13)
12. What does it mean to choose God's providence over our own expectations and to glorify Him rather than remain focused on our complaints? (1 Corinthians 10:10-13, Philippians 2:14-16, 4:19-20) Describe a time when your circumstances did not change, but your perspective did. How did gratitude, trust or a renewed focus on God's providence affect your attitude?