Week 7 Sermon Series: Mind Revolution - Change Your Life

March 7, 2026

Opening Monologue

Welcome, everyone, to week 7—our final week in this series: "Mind Revolution – Change Your Life!"

If you missed any of the previous weeks, head over to this YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/@almontvineyardchurch and catch up on the ones you missed. Each sermon builds off the last in many ways.

We have discussed many things associated with the good, the bad, and the ugly that are stored in our 2.5-pound jelly-like brains. It is now our responsibility to allow Christ to "renew our minds and be transformed" (Romans 12:2). Of course, the opposite is true: if you do nothing, you continue to live with strongholds that terrorize your mind. I couldn't think of anything worse than to live—and continue to cycle—the lies of Satan over and over again. The good news of Jesus is that you don't have to live like that anymore! Special note:Last week, I concluded my sermon by giving you 5 Divine Power Tools to demolish strongholds. Make sure you get them!

This Sunday, we are going to conclude our series by talking about complaining, grumbling, and having a critical spirit—oh boy! Let's be honest: we all do our fair share of complaining and grumbling. This winter, in the middle of the brutal cold spell we endured in Michigan, I literally said, "It's so cold…I'm done with this!" The reality is, all the hot air that came out of my lungs never warmed up the air a bit. In case you haven't noticed, our grumbling and complaining doesn't do much except flare us up, raise our blood pressure, and get us very angry.

After the Lord freed the Israelites from being enslaved to the Egyptians, their literal grumbling and complaining got them stuck wandering in the desert for 40 years. Think about that—that is really hard to comprehend. The Lord literally said to Moses, "How long will this wicked community grumble against me?" Sad to say, their bodies fell one by one, dead in the desert, and only a select few got into the Promised Land. You can read about this in Numbers 14. Here is the number one thing we must understand about grumbling and complaining: The Lord hears us!

We are going to deep-dive into the subject so that we can be better equipped to keep our attitudes and minds in check. After all, as Christians, we represent our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The real soul-searching question you need to ask yourself is: Does the world recognize that you have Jesus living inside of you?

"Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, 'children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.' Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labour in vain." (Philippians 2:14-16)

Please join us this Sunday as we hop into God's Word to be better equipped and to break down strongholds that Satan uses against us. We can do all things through Jesus Christ who gives us strength.

In Christ,
Rev. Brad Standfest

To Listen to this week's Sermon: "Week 6 Mind Revolution- Change Your Life" Go to the Sermon tab here in our APP or use the links to our website or YouTube Channel where you can also listen to our Sermons:

Web: https://www.almontvineyardchurch.org/media
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Key Sermon Text

Romans 12:2
https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%2012%3A2&version=NIV
Numbers 14:26-30
https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Numbers%2014%3A26-30&version=NIV
Romans 14:13
https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%2014%3A13&version=NIV
Colossians 4:6
https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians%204%3A6&version=NIV
Philippians 2:14-15
https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians%202%3A14-15&version=NIV
Matthew 13:54-58
https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2013%3A54-58&version=NIV
Ephesians 4:29
https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians%204%3A29&version=NIV

What Can We Learn from the Grumblings of the Israelites?

As Christians, the story of the Israelites in the wilderness offers one of the most sobering and powerful warnings in Scripture. Despite witnessing God's miraculous deliverance from Egypt—the plagues, the parting of the Red Sea, daily manna from heaven, water from rocks, and cloud-and-fire guidance—they repeatedly responded with grumbling, complaining, and outright rebellion. This pattern didn't just annoy their leaders; it profoundly hindered their relationship with God and blocked them from entering the fullness of His promises.

God showed unwavering faithfulness, deliverance, protection, provision, and security through repeated miracles, meeting every need. Yet the Israelites met these acts with ingratitude, complaints, and rebellion instead of praise and celebration. Their grumbling ignored God's past provisions and led to severe consequences, showing the dangers of failing to learn from history.

Key instances reveal a consistent cycle:

- After crossing the Red Sea, they panicked at Pharaoh's approach and wished they had stayed as slaves in Egypt (Exodus 14:10-12).
- When water was scarce, they demanded it and turned against Moses (Exodus 15:24).
- Hungry, they moaned that it would have been better to die in Egypt with full pots of meat and bread (Exodus 16:2-3).
- Thirst returned, and they tested God again (Exodus 17:2).
- They rejected manna, calling it horrible and longing for Egypt's "food of slavery" (Numbers 21:5; Numbers 11).
- Even leadership faced criticism (Numbers 12).

- The culmination came at the edge of the Promised Land: After the spies' report, fear and complaints spread—ten spies fueled dread, the people wept all night, talked of stoning faithful Joshua and Caleb, and plotted to return to Egypt (Numbers 13–14).

God Himself responded with frustration: "How long will this wicked community grumble against me?" (Numbers 14). He declared that their own words would come true—the generation aged 20 and older would die in the wilderness, never entering the land flowing with milk and honey that He had promised (Numbers 14:26-29; Exodus 3:17).

What can we learn as Christians?

Grumbling and complaining can keep us from experiencing the blessings of God—just as they did for the Israelites. Complaining kept them from trusting, smothering their faith and keeping them in fear. Complaining kept them from the promise—a land of their own flowing with sweet provisions.

This isn't just ancient history; it's a mirror for us today. When we complain—about circumstances, provision, leadership, hardships, or even God's timing—we echo the Israelites' ingratitude. It shifts our focus from God's faithfulness to our discomfort, smothers trust, breeds fear, and blocks the "Promised Land" experiences God has for us: peace, growth, breakthrough, and deeper intimacy with Him.

Instead, Scripture calls us to a different path. Philippians 2:14-16 urges: "Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, 'children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.' Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life."

The Israelites' failure to learn from past deliverances led to self-fulfilling prophecies of hardship and lost opportunities. We must cultivate gratitude, remember God's track record in our lives, and choose trust over complaint. When trials come, let's turn our grumbling into praise, our demands into prayers of faith. In doing so, we position ourselves to enter and enjoy the fullness of God's promises—through Christ, who strengthens us for every season (Philippians 4:13).

May this story stir us to examine our hearts: Does our speech reflect trust in a faithful God, or does it reveal a grumbling spirit that could keep us wandering longer than necessary? Let's choose gratitude and watch God lead us into His best.

(Rev. Standfest, 1)

The Complaining Deception

Complaining is an internal deception that quickly gives way to a verbal reality. At its core, it's the belief that we are entitled to something better than what God has given us. On one hand, we claim to trust that God is sovereign and in control; on the other, we express dissatisfaction with His choices. This contradiction lacks logic—and yet it's strangely addicting, pulling us into a cycle that hardens our hearts and dims our faith.

The most important truth we must grasp about our grumbling and complaining is this: **God hears you.** Let that sink in—God Himself hears every word of complaint, every murmur of discontent. Not only does He hear, but so do the people around us. Our grumbling can spread like an infection, infecting others and tempting them to sin. As the Apostle Paul warns in Romans 14:13, "Let us never put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother or sister in Christ." When we complain, we invite others to doubt God's grace, goodness, and provision.

Scripture calls us to a higher standard: "Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone" (Colossians 4:6). Our words should build up, not tear down; they should point others toward trust in God, not away from it.

Grumbling and complaining also keep us from shining as we're meant to. Jesus instructs us, "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). How

can we shine brightly if our constant grumbling overshadows our praise, encouragement, and gratitude? A critical, complaining spirit clouds the light of Christ within us, making us look more like the world than like children of God.

As the ancient proverb reminds us, "The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit" (Proverbs 18:21). Our words carry real power—they can build others up or tear them down. More than that, habitual complaining and grumbling create strongholds in our minds, depositing negativity that flows out like a river from the heart. What we allow to take root internally eventually overflows externally, shaping our lives and influencing those around us.

This is why Ephesians 4:29 gives us such clear direction: "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen." Let that be our calling and our goal. May strongholds flee as we choose gratitude over grumbling. May God be exalted as we unite our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Instead of being dark complainers, let's become light-shiners—reflecting His grace, trust, and joy in every season.

The deception of complaining promises relief but delivers bondage. Choose today to break the cycle: replace murmurs with thanks, doubts with declarations of faith, and complaints with words that give life. In doing so, we step into the freedom and blessing God intends for us.

(The Complaining Cure, 1, Rev. Standfest)

Numbers 14:26-30

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron: "How long will this wicked community grumble against me? I have heard the complaints of these grumbling Israelites. So tell them, 'As surely as I live,' declares the LORD, 'I will do to you the very thing I heard you say: In this wilderness your bodies will fall—every one of you twenty years old or more who was counted in the census and who has grumbled against me. Not one of you will enter the land I swore with uplifted hand to make your home, except Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun.'"

This is part of God's judgment on the generation that refused to trust Him and enter the Promised Land, sentencing them to wander for 40 years until that generation died off (with exceptions for faithful Joshua and Caleb).

- God's patience has limits when faced with ongoing rebellion and unbelief.
- The people's grumbling wasn't just against Moses—it was directly against God, showing a lack of trust in His promises and provision despite all He had done (deliverance from Egypt, miracles, etc.).
- God hears every complaint and takes unbelief seriously, leading to consequences that match the sin (e.g., their fearful words about dying in the wilderness became reality).
- Yet, God's faithfulness persists: He honors His promise to the next generation, showing mercy amid judgment.
- Application: Persistent complaining can harden hearts, block blessings, and forfeit God's best plans, but turning to faith (like Joshua and Caleb) opens the door to His promises. God's Open Ears
- **The most important fact is that God hears it!**— The text stresses this repeatedly ("I have heard the complaints… I have heard the grumblings"). God isn't distant; He actively listens to our words and attitudes. This should sober us—our grumbling isn't private venting; it's heard by the One who matters most.
- **God says how long are you going to keep doing this?** — This rhetorical question ("How long will this wicked community grumble against me?") reveals divine frustration with chronic negativity. It's a call to self-examination: How long will we let complaining define us? The Israelites' pattern of murmuring (seen earlier in Exodus and Numbers) exhausted God's forbearance in this instance, leading to severe consequences.

- **A perfect reflection for our lives: Are we going to allow grumbling and complaining to constantly overshadow our thoughts?** —The Life Application Bible Commentary

Notes often urge readers to replace complaint with gratitude and trust, noting that grumbling reflects unbelief in God's goodness and sovereignty. It can overshadow faith, rob joy, and hinder spiritual growth or receiving God's promises. Just as the Israelites' words sealed their fate (God did to them "as [they] have spoken"), our habitual negativity can limit our experience of God's blessings today. Instead, we're called to "do everything without grumbling" (Philippians 2:14) and to focus on what is true, noble, and praiseworthy (Philippians 4:8).
Overall, this passage warns against letting grumbling become a lifestyle—it displeases God, who hears and responds. But it also points to hope: Repentance, faith, and obedience (as modeled by Joshua and Caleb) lead to entering God's rest and promises. Your reflection encourages that personal check: Let's not let complaining dominate; choose trust instead, knowing God hears and cares deeply.

Commentary, Spiritual Applications, and Theological Reflections

Colossians 4:6

4:6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer everyone. The believers were to be wise in how they acted (4:5), but their witness should be more than actions alone. The spoken word would be the communication method; therefore, they should be wise in how they spoke.

Speech that is gracious is kind and courteous. Speech that is seasoned with salt is interesting (as opposed to dull), invites interaction (as opposed to refusing to listen and discuss), adds "spice" to a discussion (by penetrating to deeper levels), and is pure and wholesome (as opposed to "filthy language," 3:8). According to the parallel passage in Ephesians 4:29, the salt symbolizes that which preserves our conversation from being corrupt. Believers who are "the salt of the earth" (Matthew 5:13; Mark 9:49–50; Luke 14:34) should have speech that is tasteful. Believers should always be ready to answer questions about their faith and be ready to share words of personal testimony. As Peter wrote: "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience" (1 Peter 3:15–16 NIV).

No Christian should have a dull, tiresome, know-it-all monologue of his faith. Instead, Christians, who have the most exciting news in the world to share, should be able to share that message with excitement, ability to invoke interest, an understanding of the basics, a willingness to listen and discuss, and a desire to answer everyone's questions graciously.

SALTY SPEECH
The way words are spoken is as important as the words themselves. When we tell others about Christ, we should always be gracious in what we say. No matter how much sense the message makes, we lose our effectiveness if we are not courteous. Just as we like to be respected, we must respect others if we want them to listen to what we have to say.

Philippians 2:14-15
2:14 Do everything without complaining or arguing. While the Philippians would "work out" their own salvation for the unity of the church, Paul had advice for how they could go about it—they should stop bickering. Paul returned to the basic problem described in 2:1–4, the arrogance that leads to dissension. Complaining translates from a word that describes a bad attitude which expresses itself in constant grumbling. The Israelites constantly grumbled in the wilderness, and God judged them for it (see Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 10:1–5, 10; 1 Peter 4:9). The word for arguing has a legal connotation and may refer to the Philippian Christians going to civil courts to settle their differences, an action Paul condemned elsewhere (1 Corinthians 6:1–11). Their arguments may have stemmed from the Philippians' pride in their achievements, which Paul denounced in 2:3. It was popular among the Aristotelian philosophers around Philippi to impress others with their accomplishments; the Christians were not to act that way.

Why are complaining and arguing so harmful? First, they are completely opposite of Christ's attitude (2:5–8), which believers are to emulate. Second, they hurt Christ's cause among unbelievers. If all that people know about a church is that its members constantly argue, complain, and gossip, they get a bad impression of Christ and the gospel. Unbelievers then feel justified in criticizing the Christians. Third, probably more churches have split from causes related to arguing and complaining than from heresy.

COMPLAINT DEPARTMENT
What do people complain about? They complain about pastors, programs, how services are conducted, certain people in office, and issues before the church. If the members in your church are always complaining and arguing, the church lacks the unifying power of Jesus Christ. Stop arguing with other Christians or complaining about people and conditions within the church and let the world see Christ.

2:15 So that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe. Paul explained the importance of the believers' actions—they needed to clean up their act in order to fulfill their mission of spreading the gospel. Paul's advice for their "housecleaning" is summed up in two words.

First, the church ought to be blameless, meaning beyond reproach, incurring no justifiable criticism. This does not mean sinless perfection; instead, the church was to be beyond the criticism of the unbelieving world. Second, the church ought to be pure (also translated "innocent"). The Greek word akeraioi was used to describe wine that had not been diluted or metal that had no weakening alloys. Jesus used the word when he told his disciples to be "innocent as doves" (Matthew 10:16); Paul employed it when he told the Romans to be "wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil" (Romans 16:19 NIV). There ought to be nothing within the church that would weaken its strength or contaminate the truth. When a church is filled with disputes, arguments, bickering, and divisions, it cannot be blameless, for unbelievers are the first to spot such problems in the church and to point critical fingers. Nor can such a church be pure, for such problems will undermine its strength. If the church can be blameless and pure, it will be able to fulfill its mission in the world and will be conducting itself "in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ" (1:27 NIV).

Then the church's members would be children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation. Paul was quoting from words that Moses used to describe the nation of Israel when it went astray: "They have acted corruptly toward [God]; to their shame they are no longer his children, but a warped and crooked generation" (Deuteronomy 32:5 NIV). Moses was describing apostate Israel, but Paul applied the words to the culture surrounding the Philippian church. Without a doubt, the Philippian believers lived in a generation filled with dishonesty and perversion (see the "setting" section in the introduction). But there is great significance to the little word "in." While believers are rescued out of the present evil age (Galatians 1:4) and are no longer of the world (John 17:16), they are not taken out of the world (John 17:15). They are "in" the world and have been given a commission to go "into" the world with the Good News (John 17:18). The church of Philippi needed to fulfill its mission in the world, and it could best do so by being blameless and pure children of God right in the middle of the depraved culture.

When a body of believers remains pure and blameless, the contrast with their culture is so stark that it is as if they shine like stars. They bring the light of truth into the darkness of depravity, as stars light up the darkness of the night. Indeed, Jesus told those who believe in him: "You are the light of the world…. Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:14, 16 NRSV; see also Daniel 12:3).

Matthew 13:54-58 describes Jesus returning to His hometown of **Nazareth** after teaching in parables elsewhere: Coming to his hometown, he began teaching the people in their synagogue, and they were amazed. "Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?" they asked. "Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother's name Mary, and aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? Aren't all his sisters with us? Where then did this man

get all these things?" And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own town and in his own home." And he did not do many miracles there because of their unbelief.

This short account highlights a tragic irony: Jesus, the Messiah, faces rejection right where people should have known Him best. The crowd starts with amazement at His teaching and reported miracles, but familiarity quickly turns to skepticism. They fixate on His ordinary background—His family, His trade as a carpenter (or builder), His humble origins—and use it to dismiss Him. This leads to the key phrase: **they took offense at him** (Greek: eskandalizonto en autō, from skandalizō, meaning "to stumble over" or "to be caused to stumble/fall away").

In biblical terms, "taking offense" here isn't just mild annoyance or hurt feelings. It means they were **scandalized** or **stumbled** by Him—His claims and authority clashed with their preconceived ideas of who He should be. They couldn't reconcile the extraordinary wisdom and power with the "ordinary" man they'd watched grow up. Pride, envy, and familiarity bred contempt; they refused to accept that God could work through someone so "common" from their own community. This offense hardened into unbelief, limiting Jesus' miraculous work there (He did few mighty deeds "because of their unbelief").

The **Life Application Study Bible** emphasizes:

- Familiarity can blind us to God's work. The people of Nazareth knew Jesus as a child and young man, so they couldn't see Him as the divine Son of God. Their preconceptions blocked faith.
- **Taking offense** reflects a deeper issue: unbelief rooted in pride and low expectations. They were astonished at first but chose to reject rather than believe, showing how easily we can dismiss truth when it doesn't fit our boxes.
- Jesus' response ("A prophet is not without honor except in his own town and in his own home") is a proverbial truth—often those closest to us struggle most to honor God's calling on our lives (or on others). It warns against letting familiarity or jealousy hinder openness to God's truth.
- Application: Unbelief limits God's power in our lives too. Just as their lack of faith restricted miracles in Nazareth, our doubts, prejudices, or insistence on "knowing" how God should act can block His work today. The notes urge readers to examine their hearts: Are we open to God's surprising ways, or do we "take offense" when He doesn't meet our expectations? Faith opens the door to experiencing more of God's power, while unbelief closes it.

This ties into broader themes in the Gospels—Jesus often faced rejection from those who "knew" Him too well (like His own family or religious leaders). Yet, the passage ends on a sobering note: unbelief has consequences. Jesus honored their free will by not forcing miracles where faith was absent. In reflection, this challenges us: Do we ever "take offense" at Jesus or God's work because it doesn't align with our expectations or background? The call is to humble ourselves, believe despite familiarity or doubt, and let faith unleash God's power rather than limit it.

** Resources: Rev. Brad Standfest, (1) Logos Bible Program: Factbook, Walter A. Elwell and Philip Wesley Comfort, Guzik, David. 2013. Romans. David Guzik's Commentaries on the Bible, Barton, Bruce B., David Veerman, and Neil S. Wilson. 1992. Romans. Life Application Bible Commentary, Barton, Bruce B., and Philip Wesley Comfort. 1995. The Complaining Cure- Author and Pastor Bill Wahl, Good and Angry- Dr. David Powlison, Stop Your Complaining- Author and Pastor Ronnie Martin. Walton, John H. 2001. Genesis. The Life Application Commentary. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, Matthew Henry Commentary, Warren W.Wiersbe Commentary, Barton, Bruce B., and Grant R. Osborne. 1999. 1 & 2 Corinthians. Life Application Bible Commentary. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House. Barton, Bruce B., David Veerman, and Neil S. Wilson. 1992. Romans. Life Application Bible Commentary. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers. David Guzik. 2013. 2 Corinthians. David Guzik's Commentaries on the Bible. Santa Barbara, CA: David Guzik. Barton, Bruce B., and Philip

Wesley Comfort. 1995. Philippians, Colossians, Philemon. Life Application Bible Commentary. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers. Barton, Bruce B., and Philip Wesley Comfort. 1995. Philippians, Colossians, Philemon. Life Application Bible Commentary. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

Sermon Notes:

Week 7: Mind Revolution – Change Your Life

Good Morning and Happy Sunday to you All… Blessings in Christ to everyone joining us online…
We have been in a Sermon Series Titled: Mind Revolution - Change Your Life!…
If you have been following along in this Series by now you know our Key Passage…
This is God's Word: Romans 12:2 says…
Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Look… The ball is in your Court… You can choose to do Nothing and allow chaos to rule your mind… Or you can allow Jesus to Transform Your Thoughts…

Today I am going to conclude our series by talking about Complaining, Grumbling & Having a Critical spirit… I realize none of you do any of those things… So, take good notes so you can tell someone else about this sermon… LOL

Us Michiganders know how to Complain about the weather… In our defense we got all 4 seasons in our current winter… (Thunderstorm)

The Good News is we are only 12 Days away from the official start of Spring… March 20th…

This winter I complained (During the -20)… "It's so cold, I' m done with this!"

Guess what… All that Hot Air that came out of my mouth didn't make it any warmer…

Listen… All your complaining and grumbling isn't going to slow down the snow… or make the traffic go any faster…
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After the Lord freed the Israelites from enslavement to the Egyptian's they became Master Complainers… (Do you know a master complainer?)

A one month journey took them 40 years to get to the Promised Land.

Arthur & Pastor Bill Wall comments on grumbling and complaining in his Book – Complaining Cure

Listen: I Quote…

"Complaining is an internal deception that gives way to a verbal reality. It's believing that we are entitled to something better than what we've been given. It's saying on one hand that we believe God is not really in control, but then being dissatisfied with His choices when we believe He is. It lacks logic. And it's addicting… Also In a strange way, grumbling is akin to being drunk. It's attempting to make something that feels bad on the inside feel "good" on the outside."

Here's what the Lord said to the Israelites about their complaining and grumbling:
"The LORD said to Moses and Aaron: "How long will this wicked community grumble against me? I have heard the complaints of these grumbling Israelites. So tell them, 'As surely as I live, declares the LORD, I will do to you the very things I heard you say: In this desert your bodies will fall—every one of you twenty years old or more who was counted

in the census and who has grumbled against me. Not one of you will enter the land I swore with uplifted hand to make your home…" Numbers 14:26-30a

Here is the First & Most Important part about our Complaining… GOD HEARS YOU!

Understand … Your Grumbling/Complaining spreads like an Infection to others…
How so? (Great Question, thanks for asking)

It Tempts others to Sin

1. Apostle Paul says: Let us never put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother or sister in Christ (Romans 14:13b)
2. It Invites others to doubt God's Grace Colossians 4:6 says: Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.
3. Grumbling keeps us from Shining

Philippians 2:14-15
Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe

Complaining and Grumbling Robs us from the blessings of God

Meg & I with the help of my Father built a home in 1996… Beautiful Place

We were having a Birthday celebration and we invited family…

- Huge boulders from property and decided to build a rock wall
- Finishing touches to home before the party
- Work on it 3 wks straight- blood, sweat, tears
- When one of my family members arrived they say: "Don't you think you should have put that wall over there"

Listen That Constant Critical Spirit will sow seeds of anger & bitterness in other peoples lives…
This might seem Harsh but maybe you should just Shut Your Trapper!!

You may not know this but some people took offense to Jesus…

Read Matthew 13:54-58 "Coming to his hometown, he began teaching the people in their synagogue, and they were amazed. "Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?" they asked. "Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother's name Mary, and aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? Aren't all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?" And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own town and in his own home." And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith."

They "Took Offense"… Also known as a Critical Spirit…

"Took offense" AKA Critical Spirit Means:
Causing someone to stumble, be offended… it leads to rejection, bitterness and disbelief…

Let me give you 3 Quick Spiritual Applications about a Critical spirit
Spiritual Application from a Critical Spirit

1. Criticism prevents others from recognizing the Truth: creates barriers of ridicule, cynicism and alike.
2. Criticism allows offenses to grow; resentment, indignation and anger will flourish.
3. The critical path fosters mistrust and unbelief.

Scripture says Eph. 4:29
"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."

Let's Build Others Up- Amen

Closing Prayer

Devotional Questions: Taken from the Sermon and Main Scriptures

1. Reflection on God's Hearing — The sermon stresses that the most important truth about grumbling is: "God hears you!" (Numbers 14:26-30). How does knowing God actively listens to every complaint change the way you view your private thoughts or casual venting (e.g., about weather, people, or circumstances)? What specific complaint have you uttered recently that you now realize God heard?
2. Self-Examination on Duration — God asked the Israelites, "How long will this wicked community grumble against me?" (Numbers 14). In what areas of your life has complaining become a chronic pattern? How long have you allowed grumbling to overshadow your thoughts, and what would it look like to say, "Enough—no more"?
3. The Infection of Negativity — The sermon stressed that "grumbling spreads like an infection: it tempts others to sin, invites doubt in God's grace, and hinders shining" (Philippians 2:14-15; Romans 14:13). Think of a time when your complaining affected someone else (family, church, coworkers). How can you guard against becoming a "stumbling block" through your words this week?
4. Shining or Clouded? — Philippians 2:14-16 calls us to do everything without grumbling so we "shine like stars" in a dark world. On a scale of 1-10, how brightly is your light shining right now, or is it clouded by a critical/complaining spirit? What one change (e.g., gratitude practice) could help you shine more clearly for Christ?
5. The Critical Spirit and Offense — In Matthew 13:54-58, the people in Nazareth "took offense" at Jesus due to familiarity, leading to unbelief and limited miracles. How does a critical spirit (judging, cynicism, low expectations) cause us to "take offense" at God, leaders, or others?
6. Entitlement Deception — The sermon quotes that complaining is an "internal deception" believing we're entitled to better than what God provides, contradicting trust in His sovereignty. Where in your life do you sense this entitlement (e.g., "I deserve better weather/job/health")? How can renewing your mind (Romans 12:2) replace it with contentment?
7. Building Up vs. Tearing Down — Ephesians 4:29 and Colossians 4:6 urge speech that builds others up, full of grace and seasoned with salt. Recall Pastor Brad's rock wall story—how a critical comment sowed anger/bitterness. How can you intentionally use words this week to "build others up according to their needs" instead of critiquing?
8. Consequences of Words — Just as the Israelites' grumbling words became reality (dying in the wilderness), our complaints can limit blessings and create strongholds. What "Promised Land" experiences (peace, breakthrough, joy) might complaining be blocking in your life? How does choosing faith over grumbling (like Joshua and Caleb) open doors?

9. Gratitude as the Cure — The sermon contrasts the Israelites' ingratitude despite miracles with the call to praise and trust. What daily habit (e.g., thanking God for 3 things each morning) could help shift you from grumbling to gratitude? How might this demolish a complaining stronghold?

10. Representation Check — "Does the world recognize that you have Jesus living inside of you?" If complaining/grumbling/critical attitudes dominate, what message does that send about Christ? Commit to one action this week (e.g., responding graciously in a tough situation) to better represent Him and shine in a "warped and crooked generation."