



## I. Series Review

### A. Song of Solomon 2:15

- **NKJV** - Catch us the foxes, The little foxes that spoil the vines, For our vines *have* tender grapes
- **Literal Standard Version** - Seize for us the foxes, Little foxes – DESTROYERS of vineyards, even our sweet-smelling vineyards.
- **GNT** - Catch the foxes, the little foxes, **before** they ruin our vineyard in bloom

### B. Previous sessions

1. Little fox of wrong thinking
2. Little fox of condemnation
3. Little fox of negative emotions
4. Little fox of strife
5. Little fox of impatience

## II. Complaining, murmuring, grumbling - little foxes that spoil the vine.

### A. Bible terms

1. Complain
  - a. to express dissatisfaction or annoyance about something. – *to groan or creak under strain*
  - b. To express resentment or displeasure – to habitually grumble
  - c. **Num 11:1**
    - **NKJV** – And *when* the people complained, it displeased the LORD: and the LORD heard *it*; and his anger was kindled; and the fire of the LORD burnt among them, and consumed *them that were* in the uttermost parts of the camp
    - **AMP** - Now the people became like those who complain *and* whine about their hardships, and the LORD heard it; and when the LORD heard it, His anger was kindled, and the fire of the LORD burned among them and devoured those in the outlying parts of the camp



## Little Foxes that Spoil the Vine | Session 6: The Little Fox of Complaint

*Pastor Dale Campbell*

### 2. Murmured

- a. To grumble – a soft sound made by a person or a group of people speaking quietly or at a distance
- b. To utter complaints in a low – half articulated voice
- c. **Ex 15:24**
  - **NKJV** - And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink?
- d. **Ex 16:2**
  - **NKJV** - And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron.
- e. **Ex 17:3**
  - **NKJV** - And the people thirsted there for water and the people murmured against Moses ...
- f. **Num 14:2**
  - **NKJV** – And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron ...
- g. Other OT references: **Numbers 16:41, Deut. 1:27, Josh. 9:18, Ps. 106:25**

### 3. New Testament passages:

- a. **Luke 5:30**
  - **NKJV** - And their scribes and the Pharisees complained against His disciples, saying, “Why do You eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?”
- b. **John 6:41-42**
  - **NKJV** - The Jews then complained about Him, because He said, “I am the bread which came down from heaven.” And they said, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know?”



**\* PASTOR'S NOTE:** *In every example of complaining throughout scripture, it is never beneficial. In most cases the cost is great. Complaining comes with a high price to pay.*

## **B. Warnings in scripture about complaining**

### **1. 1 Cor 10:10-11**

- **NKJV** - nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer. Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come
- **NLT** - And don't grumble as some of them did, and then were destroyed by the angel of death."

### **2. It is interesting to notice the list of things complaining is associated with in 1 Cor 10:**

- a. Idolatry
- b. Sexual immorality
- c. Lust for evil things
- d. Temptation (*The indication is that one may be tempted to complain just as he is tempted in other carnal practices.*)

### **3. Phil 2:14**

- **NKJV** - Do all things without complaining and disputing,
- **Weymouth** - Be ever on your guard against a grudging and contentious spirit

### **4. 1 Peter 4:10**

- **NKJV** - Be hospitable to one another without grumbling

## **III. The Dangers of Complaining: How Does Complaining Become a Little Fox?**

### **A. Complaining produces agitation in our heart and mind.**

1. God's will is for us to have a sound mind.



a. **2 Timothy 1:7**

- **NKJV** - For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind

b. Sound mind – calm, well balanced, disciplined, and self-controlled mind.

2. **Prov 14:30**

- **NKJV** - A sound heart *is* life to the body, But envy *is* rottenness to the bones
- **AMP** - A calm *and* peaceful *and* tranquil heart is life *and* health to the body, But passion *and* envy are like rottenness to the bones

3. Complaining fuels agitation, aggravation, stress, anxiety, depression - all of which affect the chemicals in your physical body.

**\* PASTOR'S NOTE:** *For those who are exercising faith for healing, the stress caused by complaining may become the little fox that will steal the harvest of sound health.*

**B. Complaining is not the language of faith.**

1. When we complain about circumstances, it is likely that our words will not be from a spirit of faith.
  - a. If I truly am in faith for a breakthrough – my words would not be out of a complaining flow.
  - b. Most of the complaints of the children of Israel were out of a spirit of unbelief.
    - i. *God brought us out here to die*
    - ii. *We are unable to do the things God commands us to do*
    - iii. *Our enemies are stronger than we are*
    - iv. *We were better off in Egypt.*
2. God takes complaints very seriously when they speak against Him or His word.



a. **Mal 3:13-18**

- **NKJV** - “Your words have been harsh against Me,” Says the LORD, “Yet you say, ‘What have we spoken against You?’ You have said, ‘It is useless to serve God; What profit *is it* that we have kept His ordinance, And that we have walked as mourners Before the LORD of hosts? So now we call the proud blessed, For those who do wickedness are raised up; They even tempt God and go free.’”

**A Book of Remembrance**

Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, And the LORD listened and heard *them*; So a book of remembrance was written before Him For those who fear the LORD And who meditate on His name. “They shall be Mine,” says the LORD of hosts, “On the day that I make them My jewels. And I will spare them As a man spares his own son who serves him.” Then you shall again discern Between the righteous and the wicked, Between one who serves God And one who does not serve Him

**C. Complaining Is not a change agent.**

**NOTE:** *If for no other reasons to stop complaining, we need to realize that circumstances are not changed by complaining.*