

# DRIPS

## DEALING WITH OUR RELATIONAL IRRITATIONS: POISED TO SERVE DRIPPING #3: WHINING, GRUMBLING, MURMURING, NAGGING

### I. Key Verse: Phil. 2:14-15

A. The scope of the exhortation: all things

B. Terms

“murmuring,” “grumbling,” “complaining” – In Hebrew it literally means to “stop and spend the night.” It carries the connotation of being obstinate or to have a complaining spirit. The Greek word is “onomatopoeic,” when it pronounced it sounds like a low muttering.

a. Look at the crowd in John 7:12

b. Look at Paul’s warnings in 1 Cor. 10:6-11

“Arguing” – It means to settle an account. It’s the idea of debating.

C. The focus of the verse: to become light-givers (Matt. 5:14)

As children of God, the standard for our behavior is high. We are expected to behave differently than others. We are to prove ourselves to be “blameless,” “innocent” the contrast against a “crooked and depraved generation.” (Deut. 32:5)

1. “Blameless”: nothing to be accused of

2. “Pure”: nothing foreign or improper

3. “Without fault”: Look at Dan. 6:4-5

### II. Some negative examples from scripture

A. The children of Israel against Moses

Ex. 15:24; 16:2, 7-9, 12; 17:3 and Num. 14:2, 29

B. Miriam and Aaron against Moses

Num. 12:1

- C. Two Philistine wives against Samson

Judges 14:15-18 and 16:6, 10, 13, 15

- D. The Pharisees against the disciples

Luke 5:30, 19:7

### III. A positive example from scripture

The Proverbs 31 woman

Prov. 31:26 "She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue."

### IV. Some important principles

- A. We need to control our thoughts in order to control our tongues

Prov. 23:7 "for he is the kind of person who is always thinking about the cost. "Eat and drink," he says to you, but his heart is not with you."

Jer. 17:9 "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?"

2 Cor. 10:5 "We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."

- B. "The tongue" is an instrument involved in almost every kind of sin. Lying (Ps. 78:36), flattery (Ps. 5:9), ridicule (Isa. 57:4), slander (Ps. 15:3) and strife (Ps. 31:20).

- C. Our "tongues" are a window to our souls

Prov. 21:23 "He who guards his mouth and his tongue keeps himself from calamity."

James 1:26 "If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless."

- D. What we say affects everything!

James 3:6 "The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell."

- E. Whining, grumbling, nagging, murmuring are all destructive behavior.

Prov. 13:3 "He who guards his lips guards his life, but he who speaks rashly will come to ruin."

## V. The anecdote for grumbling – kind words

A. Notice the impact of kind words:

1. They are sweet...look at the Shulamite woman in Song of Solomon 1:6, 2:1

Prov. 16:24 “Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.

2. They are valuable...look at the elder’s counsel to Rehoboam in 2 Chron 10:7

Prov. 25:1 “These are more proverbs of Solomon, copied by the men of Hezekiah king of Judah:”

3. They are inspiring...Look at the impact of Job’s words in Job 4:4

Ecc. 12:11 “The words of the wise are like goads, their collected sayings like firmly embedded nails—given by one Shepherd.”

4. They are comforting...look at Joseph’s words in Gen. 50:21

Our bottom line: Ps. 19:14 “May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

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### ***Discussion Questions:***

1. Considering the “murmuring/complaining index” (1 to 10), what’s your score? What kinds of circumstances trigger your negative verbal response?
2. If you reined in your complaining spirit, what might you be doing in its place? What are some practical examples?
3. Why is complaining such an affront to God?