



## The Subtle Sin of Complaining

*Exodus 15-17*

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**Introduction:** The sin of complaining pursued the Israelites from Egypt and grew worse over the years! Commentators estimate that nearly one million people died as a direct result of this sin. Because the sin was never dealt with, the people wandered for forty years in the desert! The sin of complaining isn't just a sin that the Israelites struggled with, this sin has the potential of growing in the heart of every believer here. If we are not careful, this sin will subtly overtake your life like weeds overtake a mulch bed. Exodus 15-17 contains three specific examples of the Israelite's complaining. All three examples contain the root problem of this sin.

### I. We Complain When we Question God's Providential Circumstances

(Ex. 15:22-27)

\* There are two reasons why we do this:

A. Because we forget God is leading us (vs. 22-24)

B. Because we don't realize that God is testing us (vs. 25-27)

### II. We Complain When we Question God's Provision (Ex. 16:1-12)

\* There are two reasons why we do this:

A. Because we forget God's provision (vs. 1-6)

Three observations about the subtly of complaining:

1. This sin is contagious

2. This sin is multifaceted

3. This sin is rampant

B. Because we forget God is listening (vs. 7-12)

### III. We Complain When we Question God's Word (Ex. 17:1-7)

\* There are two means by which we question His Word:

A. By questioning our spiritual authority (vs. 1-3)

B. By questioning God's presence (vs. 4-7)



**Conclusion:** The key to overcoming the sin of complaining is to replace complaining with prayer. Exodus 17:4 says, "And Moses cried unto the LORD."