



Coptic Orthodox Diocese of
the Southern United States

The Monthly Message
to the consecrated brothers and sisters
July 2020

Grumbling (2)

The results of grumbling

- ❖ Most often the grumbler seeks death for himself (Exodus 16:3, 17:3, Numbers 14:2-3).
- ❖ Grumbling brings divine wrath: *“nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer”* (1 Corinthians 10:10); *“And the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, “How long shall I bear with this evil congregation who complain against Me? I have heard the complaints which the children of Israel make against Me. Say to them, ‘As I live,’ says the Lord, ‘just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will do to you: The carcasses of you who have complained against Me shall fall in this wilderness, all of you who were numbered, according to your entire number, from twenty years old and above”*(Numbers 14:26-29).
- ❖ Grumbling carries disdain of the Lord, *“Then the Lord said to Moses: “How long will these people reject Me? And how long will they not believe Me, with all the signs which I have performed among them?”*(Numbers 14:11).
- ❖ Grumbling leads the grumbler to think to regress, *“So they said to one another, “Let us select a leader and return to Egypt”*(Numbers 14:4).

- ❖ The grumbler often thinks bad and evil not good, *“And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, “If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness! Why has the Lord brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?”* (Numbers 14:2–3).
- ❖ Grumbling leads to cruelty and feeling of bitterness, *“Then they despised the pleasant land; They did not believe His word, but complained in their tents, and did not heed the voice of the Lord”* (Psalms 106:24–25).
- ❖ Grumbling leads to strife, *“Therefore the people contended with Moses, and said, “Give us water, that we may drink.” and the people complained against Moses”* (Exodus 17:2–3).
- ❖ Grumbling leads to violence, *“So Moses cried out to the Lord, saying, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me!”* (Exodus 17:4).
- ❖ Grumbling takes away all our strength in thinking about the causes of grumbling and therefore we do not achieve the wonderful things that God wants us to achieve.
- ❖ Grumbling fills the grumbler with a spirit of selfishness and self-love.
- ❖ Grumbling makes one complain and moan all the time and gossip over others.
- ❖ Too much grumbling leads man to turn away from The Lord.
- ❖ After the grumbling occurs, there may be a feeling of guilt and remorse that may lead to sadness, despair, and a sense of failure.

- ❖ Grumbling in an overly sensitive person may lead him to introversion and to prefer isolation to avoid situations that he feels are harassing others.

Although grumbling is apparently directed against man, it is in fact directed directly against God (Exodus 16:7-12, Numbers 14:26-29). Therefore, let us be careful towards grumbling.