

## Exodus 17:7 (NLT2)

***Moses named the place Massah (which means “test”) and Meribah (which means “arguing”) because the people of Israel argued with Moses and tested the LORD by saying, “Is the LORD here with us or not?”***

Complain, complain, complain. Don't we just hate it when all people do is complain all the time? Yet here we are joining in with them, complaining about those who complain. So, let's keep that in mind when we read today's verse, because when we do, we realize that this was the end results of the Children of Israel's complaining AFTER, God had delivered them from slavery in Egypt. If we go back to chapter 15 we read the first time they started to complain:

† **Exodus 15:24 (NLT2)** *Then the people complained and turned against Moses. “What are we going to drink?” they demanded.*

And if we read two verses right before this one, we read of how just three days prior, that Moses and the Children of Israel just got done singing and dancing to God and praising Him for parting the Red Sea and delivering them from their enemies (the Egyptians).

But then as we continue to read on, we read in chapter 16, verses 8, 9 & 11 as well as chapter 17 verse 2 how they continued to complain about food and water and anything else they could think to complain about. And even Moses said to them ***“your complaints are against the LORD, not against us..”***

† **Exodus 16:8 (NLT2)** *Then Moses added, “The LORD will give you meat to eat in the evening and bread to satisfy you in the morning, for he has heard all your complaints against him. What have we done? Yes, your complaints are against the LORD, not against us.”*

Which once again all led up to today's verse, where we no longer read about them complaining, but it has turned into testing God, even though He had done so much for them, by supplying them with food, water and even a day off (Which they never had in Egypt).

But how often do we complain against the Lord or about others and even start to test God wondering, ***“Is the LORD here with us or not?”*** even though He had done something great for us not long before? Be it three days, three months or even three minutes ago.

We love to quote, ***“If God is for us, who can be against us?” Romans 8:31*** But how often do we feel like God is not for us or even with us sometimes? But we seem to forget that the bible also says that ***“God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?” Numbers 23:19***

Also *“Whatever is good and perfect comes down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow.” James 1:17 (NLT2)* So if God *“never changes”*, then how can He be for us one day, and against us the next day (in our minds)? James addressed this when he said.

† **James 1:6-8** *But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.*

I think the reason we complain, is like the children of Israel, there is no true trust in the Lord, even though three days prior, God parted the Red Sea, and even though He did, they still didn't trust Him to provide water for them... Even though He parted the waters of the Red Sea. They may have been thinking. *“God can part the waters of the sea, but He cannot supply water in the desert,”*

It reminds me of when Jesus fed 5,000 men. The same situation came up again, but this time it was only 4,000 men that Jesus was going to feed. Yet the disciples didn't get it, even though they had seen Him do this before with more men, how soon they forgot the Lord's awesomeness.

But before we rag on the Children of Israel or the disciples, we have to remember how many times we have done the same thing.

- God helped me with my bills before, but I don't see how He can do it this time.
- God saved that one person I shared Jesus with, but I don't think He can save this person, they are just too far gone.
- God saved and forgave me from all my prior sins I did over all those years, but I don't think He will forgive me for this one that I just did?

We could go on and on with so many different examples. But if God is our God, and Jesus is our Savior, what, or even who, do we need to complain about? Because when we complain, we are saying in a sense, *“God, you are not doing your job right.”* (Yes, we can say ouch here) So when we complain against God, I think His response could be, *“Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.” Revelation 2:4* Because how can you really love someone that you complain about!

† **Isaiah 40:27-29 (MSG)** *Why would you ever complain, O Jacob, or, whine, Israel, saying, "GOD has lost track of me. He doesn't care what happens to me"? Don't you know anything? Haven't you been listening? GOD doesn't come and go. God lasts. He's Creator of all you can see or imagine. He doesn't get tired out, doesn't pause to catch his breath. And he knows everything, inside and out. He energizes those who get tired, gives fresh strength to dropouts.*

