

Day 3: Rejoicing Instead of Murmuring

Song: Do All Things Without Murmuring

*Do all things without murmuring!
Do all things without murmuring!
Do all things without murmuring!
Do all things without murmuring!*

*Remember what our God can do!
Remember what our God can do!
Remember what our God can do!
Do all things without murmuring!*

*Do all that you do in harmony!
Do all that you do in harmony!
Do all you do in harmony!
Do all that you do in harmony!*

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 1:26-27

Yet you would not go up. Rather you rebelled against the word of Jehovah your God; And you murmured in your tents and said, Because Jehovah hates us, He has brought us out from the land of Egypt to deliver us into the hands of the Amorites in order to destroy us.

Points to Consider:

- Sometimes we may be tempted to doubt God or doubt that God's heart is good toward us.
- When we are unhappy with our circumstances, we may not want to listen to God, or listen to the ones He has put in a position of authority or a position to help us; in these times, it is very tempting to complain and murmur.
- This murmuring is rebellious against God.
- We should instead "rejoice in the Lord always" and "in everything give thanks" (1 Thes. 5:16,18)

Story: Corrie Ten Boom and the Fleas

Corrie Ten Boom was a believer in the Lord Jesus, who, along with her family, opened her home in Amsterdam to hide and care for Jews during World War II. The Nazis did not like that the Ten Boom family did this and imprisoned Corrie and her older sister Betsie in Ravensbruck, a terrible concentration camp.

In Ravensbruck, the two sisters were assigned to a flea-infested barrack (sleeping quarters). Fleas lived in the rancid straw the women were made to sleep on, and due to the cramped quarters, the fleas multiplied and spread easily. Corrie, Betsie, and all the other women were soon covered in red, itchy and painful flea bites. Betsie remembered God's Word, "In everything give thanks..." (1 Thes. 5:18) and shared this with Corrie, telling her that they must thank the Lord for the fleas.

"Betsie, there's no way even God can make me grateful for a flea." Corrie told her sister.

"Give thanks in all circumstances," Betsie corrected. "It doesn't say, 'in pleasant circumstances.' Fleas are part of this place where God has put us."

Eventually, Corrie did thank the Lord for even the fleas. Later, she found out how the fleas had actually been a help to her sister and her in spreading God's Word. Betsie, who became very sick in the camp, was able to go around to other sick prisoners in that particular barrack, sharing the Lord with them. The two sisters also held small Bible studies in their barrack, miraculously undisturbed by the guards.

One day Betsie overheard the guards talking and came to understand why they wouldn't set foot inside this particular barrack. It was because of the fleas!

FAMILY CHAT

- What did the children of Israel accuse God of in these verses from Deuteronomy?
- What kinds of circumstances does God's Word say to rejoice and be thankful in?
- Parents, can you share an experience of thanking the Lord or rejoicing in Him even when you did not feel like it?

MEMORY VERSE

Always rejoice, unceasingly pray, in everything give thanks;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

☐ **Our family completed this day!**