

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT
#4 – FIGHT WHEN INGRATITUDE DECEIVES YOU

Intro: *During tough challenges and tough times, it’s easy to get in “gripe mode” and be ungrateful toward all the Lord has blessed us with. Fight ingratitude by fighting against the three enemies of gratitude.*

That night all the people of the community raised their voices and wept aloud. All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, “If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this desert! Why is the Lord bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn’t it be better for us to go back to Egypt?” And they said to each other, “We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt.”
Numbers 14:1-4

I. Israel: An Example of Ingratitude

- ***When times got “tough, Israel forgot God’s protection, provision, and _____*** – After God had miraculously released them from slavery in Egypt, saved them from massacre by the Egyptian army at the Red Sea, fed them manna and quail in the desert, and guided them every step of the way; they seemed to forget God’s blessings and grumbled. No gratitude!
- ***Israel wanted to go back to _____*** – They preferred a life of slavery to “the world” and its ways for meager existence and provision rather than depending on God and having gratitude to God. Israel griped rather than be grateful. Will we be like Israel?

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.
Romans 12:4

To avoid becoming like Israel, we need to fight against these enemies of gratitude:

II. Entitlement – “You Own Me (Mentality)”

- ***This is the belief that you inherently are _____ of blessings and privileges*** – Just because you are you, God owes you. It’s not what you can do for God, but what God can do for you.
- ***Fight it! Realize you deserve _____ and God owes you nothing*** – Anything God gives you is because of grace. We should be amazed by what God does for us, rather than thinking of what we are owed.

You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men?
I Corinthians 3:3

III. Jealousy – “Others are Blessed More Than Me (Mentality)”

- ***We gripe that the Lord God has not been _____ to us*** – This changes the focus from God to us and others. Jealousy also assumes we can determine accurately the blessings in everyone’s life. We can’t. There is much that we don’t see in others’ lives –

good and bad. Also our comparisons are simply a snapshot in time, not a recognition of the sum total of blessings in our life.

- ***Fight it!*** _____ ***your blessings and keep your eyes on God*** – Focus on our own blessings, and not on others. Realize that we really don't know how other are, or are not, blessed – especially long-term.

IV. Taking It for Granted – “I'm Used to It, Blind to It (Mentality)”

- ***We take our regular blessings for*** _____ – Our every day blessings (such as health, job, marriage, family, friends, etc.) are an everyday occurrence. We don't really notice them anymore. We take them for granted and consider them the norm, not realizing they are new blessings by God every day. We are not continually thankful.
- ***We take for granted “*** _____ ***” blessings”*** – These are blessings such as God's protection that are not noticed because we never see the dangers that He protects us from.
- ***Fight it! List your*** _____ ***blessings and be continually thankful*** – Realize that you could lose these blessings any time. Job did! Look around and notice others that are less blessed than you in these areas. Not everyone has health, marriage, family, friends, etc. We need to be thankful every day for everyday blessings.

Answers: I. Blessings; Egypt. II. Deserving; nothing. III. Fair; count. IV. Granted; unseen; everyday.