

# Coach House Church BEACONS

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## THE WEATHER

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29TH JULY 2021

Hasn't it been hot lately? Yes, we would all agree -it has been too hot.

After living in Britain for over a decade I have noticed that British people love to talk about the weather. If it is hot- it's too hot! If it is cold -It's too cold! When it rains -it's miserable. When it doesn't rain-it's too dry! Let me just ask this then "what would be the perfect weather for people around here?"

The surprising thing is that European people generally like to complain about the weather. Italians would say it's too hot in the summer; the Germans would say the same; the Austrians would complain too and so on. I know this from personal experience. So the British people are not that different from others. I am convinced that moaning and complaining about the weather or about other things it's a human characteristic not only a British one.

There is an old English saying "the grass is always greener on the other side " There will always be things to complain about. Better and More are always out of our reach. I'm not trying to say to stop trying for better or for more. To have goals and plans and to work towards them, it's definitely a good thing. The problem is that we don't know when to stop, when it's enough.

We all know someone that complains all the time; someone whose glass is always half empty- someone we work with, a neighbour, or even a friend. Most of us would find it hard to be around such people all the time. Too much negative thinking puts people in a bad mood.

It's hard enough to deal with one person like that, but imagine over a million people that constantly complain and moan at you.

This is what happened in the bible when the Jewish people were freed by God from Egypt where they had been enslaved. God send Moses to guide them to a land that He had promised them since Abraham. In that land God wanted to bless his people with rest, food and peace. However, It did not work out quite the way it should have. This is what the book of Numbers, chapter 11 tells us about what happened on the way to the promised land:

"Now the people complained about their hardships in the hearing of the Lord, and when he heard them his anger was aroused. Then fire from the Lord burned among them and consumed some of the outskirts of the camp."

We are not told the exact reason why they were complaining ;probably they were too tired, too hot or too hungry. Nevertheless, this made God angry because he set them free from slavery and all they could think to do was complain .They forgot the purpose for their journey.

And it does not stop here. Even after seeing people being burnt by God's anger they did not change their behaviour. They did not believe God could look after them so they started to complain again. This time they wanted meat . Let's read the account from the bible :

"The rabble with them began to crave other food, and again the Israelites started wailing and said, "If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost—also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic. But now we have lost our appetite; we never see anything but this manna!"

"The manna was like coriander seed and looked like resin. The people went around gathering it, and then ground it in a hand mill or crushed it in a mortar. They cooked it in a pot or made it into loaves. And it tasted like something made with olive oil. When the dew settled on the camp at night, the manna also came down. "

The fact that they were complaining about the limited diet options put a lot of strain on Moses. He was in the same situation as the people, limited and unable to provide anything different for such a big crowd. So Moses took his complaint to the Lord:

"He asked the Lord, "Why have you brought this trouble on your servant? What have I done to displease you that you put the burden of all these people on me? Did I conceive all these people? Did I give them birth? Why do you tell me to carry them in my arms, as a nurse carries an infant, to the land you promised on oath to their ancestors? Where can I get meat for all these people? They keep wailing to me, 'Give us meat to eat!' I cannot carry all these people by myself; the burden is too heavy for me. If this is how you are going to treat me, please go ahead and kill me—if I have found favor in your eyes—and do not let me face my own ruin."

However this was not what God had originally intended to do. He did not want Moses to struggle on his own, burdened with the pressure from all the people. So he provided for Moses:

"The Lord said to Moses: "Bring me seventy of Israel's elders who are known to you as leaders and officials among the people. Have them come to the tent of meeting, that they may stand there with you. I will come down and speak with you there, and I will take some of the power of the Spirit that is on you and put it on them. They will share the burden of the people with you so that you will not have to carry it alone."

As well as providing for Moses , God provided also for the people. he gave them what they asked for. He gave them meat. You can read the full account of what happened on the way in Numbers chapter 11, suffice to say, It did not end well for the complainers.

We can understand and learn a few things from this story: first of all that God can provide. He is able to look after everybody. His provisions are limitless And the way He works it surpasses our understanding. When Moses complained to God and said "where can I get meat to feed all these people",

he was thinking of a solution that could be achieved by human ability not by an Almighty God.

The second thing that we can understand from the story is that the people forgot they were on a journey to a better place. They forgot very quickly the hardships and suffering they were subjected to by the Egyptians. They forgot that they were on the way to freedom; to a land where they could live independently. They looked at the issues at hand and considered them too hard to deal with.

The third and the last thing that I want to point out from the story, is the fact that the people forgot to be considerate towards Moses. They turned against him when there was no water and when they got fed up of eating manna. Instead of looking for solutions to their problems, they wanted someone to blame.

Let me finish by encouraging you to think of where you are on your life journey and to learn from the mistakes of others. Let us learn to trust that the Lord is able to, and will, provide; let us remember that we are here for a limited period of time ; Let's do our best To Learn to be those people that God wants us to be and let's remember to look around us and to be considerate and kind.



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