

Chad Hester  
**SESSION 3 | Murmuring: The Erosion of  
Contentment**

## I. INTRODUCTION

“Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world” — Philippians 2:14-15

“Grant me never to lose sight of the exceeding sinfulness of sin;  
The exceeding righteousness of Christ;  
The exceeding beauty of holiness;  
The exceeding wonder of grace.” —Valley of Vision

“If you could but obtain so much liberty of your own spirits as to look back to see what the work of God was in converting you, there is nothing would prevail more than to think of that. I am now in a murmuring, discontented way, but how did I feel my soul working when God turned my soul to himself! Oh, how opposite is this to that work, and how unbecoming! Oh, what shame and confusion would come upon the spirits of men and women, if they could but compare the work of corruption in their murmuring and discontent with the work of God that was upon their souls in conversion!” — Burroughs; p. 82-83

## II. THE SIN OF MURMURING

- God speaks to this in a pronounced way
  - “And the LORD spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying, ‘How long shall this wicked congregation grumble against me? I have heard the grumbings of the people of Israel, which they grumble against me.’” (Numbers 14:26–27)
  - “Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.” We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, nor

grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer.”  
(1 Cor. 10:6-10)

- It is a foolish sin
  - Examples of our children
    - “What a foolish thing is this, that because I have not got what I want, I will not enjoy the comfort of what I have!” --Burroughs p. 91
    - “Do you think that the Lord will come in mercy a whit the sooner because of the murmuring of your spirits?” --Burroughs p. 91
  - Waste of your time
    - “But if you are discontented with anything then you can go alone, and muse, and roll things up and down in your thoughts to feed a discontented humor. Oh, labor to see this evil effect of murmuring, the losing of your time.” --Burroughs p. 88
  - Makes our present condition worse
    - “It is as if a man in a great crowd were to complain that other folks touch him. While we are in this world God has so ordered things that afflictions must befall us; and if we will complain and be discontented at every cross and affliction, why, we must complain and be discontented all the days of our lives!” --Burroughs p. 97
- It is an all too prevalent sin
  - Don't have to look far!
    - Example of the monk in Monastery of Silence
  - “Though they enjoy many mercies from God, yet they are thankful for none of them, for this is the vile nature of discontent, to lessen every mercy of God.” --Burroughs p. 89
    - The Spirit makes mercies BIG and crosses/evils *little*. Whereas the Devil makes mercies *little* and every discontent thought BIG.

### III. THE EXCUSES OF MURMURING

- “It is not discontent; it is a sense of my condition.”
  - “The more we are sensible of our afflictions, providing it is in a gracious manner, the more sensible we will be of God's mercy.” — Burroughs p. 110

- “The right sense of our afflictions will never hinder us in the performance of the duties of our condition; but you are so sensible of the affliction that you are made unfit for the performance of the duties of the condition that God has put you in.” — Burroughs p. 110
- “This is an affliction I never looked for.”
  - Also received many mercies we’ve never looked for or anticipated.
- “My affliction is exceedingly great; greater than the affliction of others.”
  - “Is your affliction greater than others? Then in this you have an opportunity to honor God more than others.” — Burroughs p. 115
- “If the affliction were any other than it is, I would be more contented.”
  - “It may be that if it were any other than it is, it would not be so suitable for you as this is. It may be, therefore, God chooses it because it is the most contrary to you, since it is most suitable for purging out the humor that is in you.” — Burroughs p. 116
  - “Know that this is the excellence of grace in a Christian, to be fitted for any condition; not only to say, if it were this or that, but if it were any.” — Burroughs p. 116

#### IV. THE REMEDIES TO MURMURING

- “Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.” (1 Corinthians 10:6–13)
- Count your blessings
  - “You look altogether upon your afflictions, but look upon your mercies also.” —Burroughs p. 103
  - “Though I cannot know what your afflictions are, yet I know what your mercies are, and I know they are so great that I am sure there can be no afflictions in this world as great as the mercies you have.” —Burroughs p. 102

- Remember your salvation
  - “That you have the day of grace and salvation, that you are not now in hell, this is a greater mercy. That you have the sound of the Gospel still in your ears, that you have the use of your reason: this is a greater mercy than your afflictions.” —Burroughs p. 102
  - “Is there anything that should disquiet your heart when you stand in such a relation to the King, as the King’s son?” —Burroughs p. 83
  - “You who are in such a position as this, you who are set apart to the end that God might manifest to all eternity what the infinite power of a Deity is able to raise a creature to - for that is the position of a saint, a believer: his position is that he is set apart to the end that God might manifest to all eternity what his infinite power is able to do to make a creature happy.” —Burroughs p. 85
- Remember the Lord’s sovereignty
  - “‘Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?’ In all this Job did not sin with his lips.” (Job 2:10)
  - “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.” (Romans 8:28)
  - “You who stand in such relation to God, as to a father, you dishonor your father in this; as if either he had not wisdom, or power, or mercy enough to provide for you.” —Burroughs p. 83