Morningside Church
Sermon Discussion Guide

Title: Gratitude **Date: November 23, 2025**

Scripture Text: Numbers 11

Notes:

Happy Thanksgiving! This is one of America's favorite holidays, a long 4-day weekend, busiest travel day of the year, lots of food, family, and football. But amongst the eating and cheering for your team, have you taken a moment to pause and express thanksgiving to God? We should *always* have something to be thankful for, regardless of our station or circumstances. In today's passage, the Israelites are blessed by God's provision, but for some it's not enough. At a time when they should be exceedingly thankful for God's protection and provision, they are busy grumbling. They had adopted the attitude of entitlement, that they deserved better than what they were getting from God.

I. The People of Ingratitude (Numbers 11:1-3)

The Israelites are about 1 ½ years out from their leaving Egypt. In Egypt they were in bondage, enslaved by Pharoah. They had been in Egypt for 400 years. In the past 1 ½ years they had experienced the work of God firsthand. They experienced God's *deliverance* from bondage in Egypt; *guidance* as He led them toward the Promised Land; His *protection* from the Egyptian army by allowing them to pass through the Red Sea; and God's *provision* as they enjoy a daily supply of manna. With all that, they found time to complain, which angered God greatly!

- How would you describe the complaining Israelites considering the divine intervention they had experienced?
- Do you know someone who has experienced God's blessing, yet still finds things to complain about?
- Describe a time in your life when you've experienced God's deliverance, guidance, protection, and provision.
- How can pausing and reminiscing on these times help us not have an attitude of ingratitude?

II. The Problem of Ingratitude (Numbers 11:4-6)

There were a few amongst the Israelites who stirred them up to be discontent with God's provision, referring back to Egypt as a better situation than they were currently in, because of their lack of variety of food. This amounted to calling the evil of the Egyptian oppression "good" and God's good provision in the wilderness "evil".

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- The Bible refers to these people as "rabble" (riffraff) who initiated discontentment amongst the Israelites. How can we protect ourselves from being influenced as the Israelites were.
- How can discontentment lead to ingratitude?
- In Phil. 4:11, the Apostle Paul states, "I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I find myself." He could say that because He knew God was in control of his circumstances and He could be trusted. When was a time you found yourself discontent in your circumstances?
- What does it say about our relationship with God when we are discontent or ungrateful?
- How can ingratitude affect others? (church, family, friends, etc.)?

III. The Prescription for Ingratitude

Three things we can do when we find we've had an attitude of ingratitude; repent, reflect and rejoice. We need to *repent* for rejecting the fact that God allowed the very circumstance in which you find yourself. Pause and *reflect* on ALL that God has done for you. To start, thank Him for your salvation, and what Jesus did on the cross, then go from there. As you reflect on God's blessings and all you have to be grateful for, then *rejoice*, glorifying God for your many blessings.

- Have you had an attitude of ingratitude? Pause and ask for God's forgiveness for having the expectation that you deserved better than what God gave you.
- Pause and reflect how God has blessed you ("count your many blessings, name them one by one").
- Take a moment and rejoice. Praise God for what He has done and what He has yet to do in and through you.
- As ingratitude creeps in, what precautions can you take not to be distracted and lose your grateful heart?
- How can spending consistent time in God's word equip us to be grateful?

"Do we not see that the Israelites got to their own hurt what their guilty lusting craved? For while manna was raining down on them from heaven, they desired to have meat to eat. They disdained what they had, and they shamelessly sought what they had not, as if it were not better for them to have asked not that their unbecoming desires be gratified with food that was wanting, but that their own dislike be removed, and that they be made to receive rightly the food that was provided. For when evil becomes our delight and good the opposite, we ought to entreat God to win us back to the love of the good rather than to grant us the evil."

Augustine (354-430)

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