

CONSTANT COMPLAINERS

Earl Kimbrough

Some people are forever and eternally complaining. They criticize nearly everything that is said and done. They are constant complainers. Nobody ever exactly suits them.. Jesus condemned the mote-hunters as possessing a disposition contrary to that which should characterize a citizen of His kingdom. “And why beholdest thou the mote in thy brother’s eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?” (Matt. 7:3). Notice the harm done by the constant complainer.

1. HE HAS THE WRONG OUTLOOK ON LIFE. He sets himself up as a judge of others. In so doing he manifests an arrogant attitude unworthy of one who claims to follow Jesus. The constant complainer is always ready – whether bidden or not – to offer his criticism of the words and deeds of others. He judges where Jesus said, “judge not” (Matt. 7:1). This kind of judgment can in no wise be called righteous because its very roots are in the fault-finding spirit which is itself evil.

2. HE IS THE MOST SELF-CENTERED OF PERSONS. He expects everyone to listen patiently to his complaints, but if someone complains of him, he becomes highly offended and deeply hurt. The constant complainer is very often one who is trying to cover his own insecurity by tearing down every one else. But one thing is sure, if one is going to be a mote-hunter, he may as well expect to be “mote-hunted.” Jesus said, “For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged; and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again” (Matt. 7:2).

3. HE IS BLINDED TO HIS OWN FAULTS. The mote-hunter is so busy condemning what others say and so that he doesn’t see the “beam” in his own eye. In reality he is blind to his faults, the chief of which may well be his fault-finding disposition. Mote-hunters commonly mistake their complaining of others to be simply a matter of being “frank and honest.” They take pride in saying what they “think.” But there is no virtue in being unable to control one’s tongue.

4. HE IS OBNOXIOUS. Nobody wants to hear complaining constantly. A nagging wife may run off a good husband (some have). People are just not going to listen to one who complains eternally and they will avoid the company of such persons as much as possible. The mote-hunter will find himself cut off and left out and he can blame none but himself for his isolation.

5. HE DISCOURAGES OTHERS. Many good plans have been ruined by the ever-present complainer. I have had many good days ruined by having to listen to such. (That is, until I learned to file such complaints where they belong – in the garbage pail – and forget them). But many weak persons in the church are discouraged and

even depart from the faith because of the fault-finders. The harm one does in hunting notes is untold.

We all, perhaps, are guilty of too much complaining, but if all of us complained and found fault as much as some do, the church would fall apart. Examine yourself! Are you one who criticizes too much and too often for your own good and for the good of the church? "Judge not, that ye be not judged."