

Grumbling

In the KJV, the word is “murmuring.”

- Matthew 20:11 And when they had received [a denarius], they *complained* against the landowner.
- Luke 5:30 But the Pharisees and their scribes *complained* against the disciples, saying, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?”
- Luke 15:2 And the Pharisees and scribes *complained*, saying, “This Man receives sinners and eats with them.”
- Luke 19:7 But when they saw it, they all *complained*, saying, “He has gone to be a guest of a man who is a sinner.”
- John 6:41 The Jews then *complained* about Him because He said, “I am the bread which came down from heaven.”
- John 6:43 Jesus therefore answered and said to them, “Do not *murmur* among yourselves.”
- John 6:61 When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples *complained* about this, He said to them, “Does this offend you?”
- John 7:12 There was much *complaining* among the people concerning Him. Some said, “He is good”; others said, “No, on the contrary, He deceives the people.”
- John 7:32 The Pharisees heard the crowd *murmuring* these things concerning Him, and the Pharisees and chief priests sent officers to take Him.
- Acts 6:1 Now, in those days, when the disciples were multiplying, there arose a *complaint* against the Hebrews by the Hellenists because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution.
- 1 Corinthians 10:10 ...nor *complain*, as some of them also *complained*, and were destroyed by the destroyer.
- Philippians 2:14 Do all things without *complaining* or disputing.
- 1 Peter 4:9 Be hospitable to one another without *grumbling*.
- Jude 16 These are *grumblers*, complainers [discontent], walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage.

Summary of grumbling in the historical books:

- “This is wrong.”
- Implies indignation.
- The grumbling may or may not be spoken to the one against whom the complaint arose.

Example of grumbling cited from the Old Testament (1 Corinthians 10:10)

- Israel grumbled many times. This description best fits Numbers 16:41 – 50, the grumbling against Moses and Aaron after Korah’s clan was swallowed by the earth. See also
 - Exodus 15:22 – 27 (water)
 - Exodus 16:1 – 12 (food)
 - Exodus 17:1 – 7 (water)
 - Numbers 11:1 – 3 (unknown)
 - Numbers 11:4 – 34 (meat)
 - Numbers 14:1 – 38, Deuteronomy 1:26 – 40 (new leadership)

- Numbers 16:1 – 35 (new leadership)
- Numbers 17:1 – 13 (new leadership)

Warnings about grumbling among Christians

- Jude 16 Grumbling is one of many characteristics of church-goers who are not Christians. Grumbling is a symptom of “natural man” thinking, emptiness, or manipulation.
- 1 Peter 4:9 Grumbling about hospitality is complaining that sharing is unfair. Grumbling is a symptom of a lack of love for one another or of failing to employ a gift from God or of misunderstanding the role of suffering.
- Philippians 2:14 The positive statement of the same idea is in 2:3 – 7. Grumbling is a symptom of selfish ambition, conceit, or dissatisfaction with God’s work in us (2:13).