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## The Parables of Jesus Christ: A Generation of Gripes

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# THE PARABLES OF JESUS CHRIST

## PARABLE EIGHT: A Generation of Gripers (Mt. 11:16-19; Lk. 7:29-35)

### SURVEY

Jesus likened His generation to a group of spoiled and immature children who complained because their playmates did not always play the game according to their rules. He then offered an example of this: John the Baptist, who abstained from wine and fasted, was accused of being demon-possessed, while Jesus, who did neither was looked upon as a glutton and drunkard!

### SIGNIFICANCE

*"But whereunto shall I liken this generation? It is like unto children sitting in the markets, and calling unto their fellows." (Mt. 11:16)*

- This was the first of many occasions where Jesus condemned His generation for their sin and unbelief.
  1. *"But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." (Mt. 12:39-40)*
  2. *"The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here." (Mt. 12:41)*
  3. *"The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here." (Mt. 12:42)*
  4. *"That the blood of all the prophets, which was shed from the foundation of the world, may be required of this generation; From the blood of Abel unto the blood of Zacharias which perished between the altar and the temple: verily I say unto you, It shall be required of this generation." (Lk. 11:50-51)*
  5. *"But first must he suffer many things, and be rejected of this generation." (Lk. 17:25)*
  6. *"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord." (Mt. 23:37-39)*

## SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- Perhaps the Holy Spirit had Jesus' generation in mind when He inspired the writing of the following words:

*"There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother. There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness. There is a generation, O how lofty are their eyes! and their eyelids are lifted up. There is a generation, whose teeth are as swords, and their jaw teeth as knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from among men."* (Prov. 30:11-14)

- The ultimate tragedy here was that this generation which began by criticizing the Savior would end by crucifying Him. The grippers would become vipers.
- The sin of murmuring and complaining is one of the most serious in all the Bible:

1. It was the sin that kept Moses' generation out of the Promised Land.

*"Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice; Surely they shall not see the land which I swore unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it."* (Num. 14:22-23)

*"Yea, they despised the pleasant land, they believed not his word: But murmured in their tents, and hearkened not unto the voice of the LORD."* (Psa. 106:24-25)

2. It is often the sin that keeps New Testament believers from entering God's spiritual Promised Land, that is, His perfect will.

*"Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer."* (1 Cor. 10:10)

*"So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief... There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God... Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief."* (Heb. 3:19; 4:9, 11)

3. It is the sin of godless apostates.

*"These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage."* (Jude 16)

4. It is the sin to be avoided at all costs.

*"Do all things without murmurings and disputings."* (Phil. 2:14)

- Thus, to complain in regard to our circumstances is not only to deny God's goodness in our lives but to actually question His very motives!