

Scripture Reading:

Exodus 2:23 – 25;

Romans 8:18 – 24



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Camels are amazing



**BBC News:
"Saudi camel beauty
pageant cracks down on
cosmetic enhancements"**



but, we might have
gotten off track...



Groaning sustains hope.
Grumbling kills it.

For endurance:

Embrace groaning;
but banish grumbling.

Groaning is...

The necessary and honest expression of pain in suffering of all kinds. It is an expression to ourselves, God, and others that we are in pain and we don't want to be, and we long to be released from it as soon as possible.

Grumbling is...

Complaining in pain against some perceived authority concerning pain and suffering, accusing them of mismanagement, incompetence, wickedness, bad motives, or disinterest; implicitly demanding a redress of grievances.

Groaning

- Rooted in pain
- Disappointment
- Needed expression
- Compatible with thankfulness
- Appeal for grace
- God's compassionate attention

Grumbling

- Rooted in pride
- Entitlement
- Poisoning indulgence
- Contradicts thankfulness
- Demand for performance
- God's disciplinary attention

1 • Groaning draws God's
compassionate attention.

Exodus 2:23 – 25

During that long period, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God. God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them.

Numbers 14:26 – 29

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron: "How long will this wicked community grumble against me? I have heard the complaints of these grumbling Israelites. So tell them, 'As surely as I live, declares the LORD, I will do to you the very things I heard you say: In this desert your bodies will fall—every one of you twenty years old or more who was counted in the census and who has grumbled against me.'"

Sustaining hope to endurance:

Groaning draws God's compassionate attention to you.

Groaning is compatible with prayer and worship.
(lament and mourning)

Grumbling draws God's disciplining attention.

2 Groaning is fundamental
● to our devotion to God.

Groaning is a Kind of Worship

Exodus—gains God's attention

Psalms—normative prayer

Job—welcomed even when done badly

Ezekiel—a mark of righteousness

Luke 22—Jesus' preparation

Romans 8—agreement with the Spirit

Psalm 31:10 – 16

My life is consumed by anguish and my years by groaning; my strength fails because of my affliction, and my bones grow weak. Because of all my enemies, I am the utter contempt of my neighbors; I am a dread to my friends—those who see me on the street flee from me. I am forgotten by them as though I were dead; I have become like broken pottery. For I hear the slander of many; there is...

Psalm 31:10 – 16

...terror on every side; they conspire against me and plot to take my life. But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, "You are my God." My times are in your hands; deliver me from my enemies and from those who pursue me. Let your face shine on your servant; save me in your unfailing love.

Romans 8:20 – 23

For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time...

Romans 8:20 – 23

...Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

Sustaining hope to endurance:

Groaning is an act of devotion and agreement with God.

Groan with God, not just in yourself.

Groaning with God sustains you,
grumbling spiritually depletes you.
(Like spiritual camel kidneys)



3 • Groaning should draw our compassionate attention.

Draw our attention to...

Mourning—Romans 12:11 – 15

Mercy—Proverbs 19:17; Matthew 5:7

Justice—Proverbs 29:1 – 2

Sustaining hope to endurance:

In hearing groaning well you are like Christ.

God has given you the work of compassion for the groaning, like Jesus.

God has given you the privilege to suffer with and for the groaning.

God has made this a means of transformation and joy.

Groaning

Wordless expression of pain

"This isn't the way it's supposed to be"

Compatible with thankfulness

Is tempted to become grumbling

Gets God's positive attention

Rooted in pain

A needed human expression

An appeal for grace

A complaint with faith

Grumbling

Form of complaining

"God, you should make it better"

Antithesis of thankfulness

Can repent back into groaning

Gets God's negative attention

Rooted in pride

A deadly human indulgence

A demand for performance

A complaint without faith

Where am I drawn to groaning?

Where am I tempted to grumbling?



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