

Sunday 20th September 2020

There appears to be some people in this world who are at their happiest when they have something to moan and grumble about. For example, the weather is either too warm, or too cold. It can be too wet or too dry and the wind or lack of it can get on their nerves!!

There are folks who moan about their boss, their partner, what's on tv and even the football team they are supposed to support. These people never seem satisfied with their lot. Now, of course none of us are like that, well maybe not to that extreme. But I guess from time to time we all have a moan and grumble about something we are not happy about.

Now, this is not a new trait that has sprung up in the modern era. Throughout history there has always been those not happy with their lot. There are many accounts in the Bible of characters who had a good old moan and groan.

Take the story of Jonah, for example. When he eventually arrived in Nineveh, having taken a slight detour, via the stomach of a whale, he delivered the message that God had given him. The people of that city heeded the warning and repented from their wicked ways.

God has compassion on the city as he sees their acts of repentance, and therefore doesn't carry out the threat that Jonah had delivered, which was to destroy them. In Jonah chapter 4 you can read the account of Jonah's grumbling about God's change of heart and how stupid he felt.

In Exodus 16:2-15 the Israelites are complaining that Moses and Aaron had led them out of Egypt, into the desert, just to die of hunger and thirst. The brothers tell the travellers that they are really grumbling at God as they were just following His instructions. God hears their moans and groans and miraculously provides for the unhappy bunch.

In Matthew's gospel Jesus tells a parable about some hired hands who got the hump with their employer. (20:1-16). Throughout the day the owner of a vineyard took on men who were on the lookout for work. Each group that he employed were happy with the terms and conditions that were on offer.

At the end of the day, when the wages were dished out, those who had been toiling all day were less than pleased that they got the same pay as those who had been taken on just before home time.

On a human level you can understand their gripe, but the landowner (God) treats all who worked for Him the same? Why? One answer can be found in Psalm 145:8 & 9 – The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. The Lord is good to all; He has compassion on all He has made.

Hang onto that thought when the hand life deals you appears to be unfair.

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