

Sunday, September 29, 2024

Scripture Reading: Psalm 124

*The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change;
the realist adjusts the sails. —William Arthur Ward*

Very few people, if any, enjoy listening to someone complain. Some people complain about everyone and everything. Something is always going wrong — like the weather, traffic, high prices, the neighbors, the spouse, the children, the ingratitude of others, change, preachers, politicians, noise. These complainers are never satisfied. Life itself is a dreary burden.

Here's a story that gives us the chance to ask ourselves if we're wasting time by complaining.

A wise, old gentleman was a resident of an assisted-care facility. He had church people, family and friends who visited him regularly. Most of them spent the time complaining about the same old problems in life. Over and over again, the older man would hear the same complaints. On one occasion, it was too much to bear.

So, instead of trying to offer advice to the three visitors in his room, he decided to tell them a joke or two. "What do you call a bear with no teeth? A gummy bear!" His friends roared with laughter. "What do you call a medieval lamp? A knight light! Get it? K-N-I-G-H-T!" They laughed again — perhaps not as much as the first time. He followed up with a third quip: "What did the envelope say to the stamp? Stick with me and you'll go places!" Laughter ensued, and then the conversation wandered to other matters.

A few minutes later, the wise man said, "Hey, let me tell you some one-liners," and he rolled out *the same three jokes*. His friends chuckled and smiled, and did not want to embarrass the fellow by telling him that he was repeating himself.

Then, he told the same jokes *a third time*, and no one laughed. They coughed nervously and then one spoke up, "You know old boy, you've told these jokes before. It's getting tiresome."

The clever oldster then said, "If you can't laugh at the same jokes, why are you always crying and complaining over the same problems? Aren't you aware that you're repeating yourself? Frankly, it's getting a little tiresome."

Believe it or not, at least a couple of his friends took his message to heart, and began to be thankful for the blessings of life!

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: O God, I have so many blessings for which to be thankful! Why is it easier to complain than it is to give thanks? Help me to modify my habits. In Jesus' name. Amen.

*Blessings,
Leslie & Pastor Brent Metz*

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: 1 Corinthians 1-4

Monday: Ezekiel 22-24

Tuesday: Ezekiel 25-27

Wednesday: Ezekiel 28-30

Thursday: Ezekiel 31-33

Friday: Ezekiel 34-36

Saturday: Psalms 109-111

VERSE TO REMEMBER
*O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
 for his steadfast love endures forever. —Psalm 107:1*

SUM RUN

DIRECTIONS: Below you see three boxes, with 12 numbers in each. Each set of numbers is a different puzzle. The object is to look at the numbers and find the **THREE** numbers that add up to your **TARGET NUMBER**. There is only one right answer. **TIME YOURSELF** and record your time on the line provided. Then do the middle puzzle. Same rules apply. Time yourself again. Did your time improve? Finally, do the puzzle on the right and time yourself. Did you get any better?

Target #: 103

24	33	52	76
75	72	36	20
88	47	49	16

MY NUMBERS:

MY TIME: _____

Target #: 109

34	23	62	46
85	72	37	21
87	43	39	14

MY NUMBERS:

MY TIME: _____

Target #: 142

26	44	32	75
71	68	39	22
88	38	41	13

MY NUMBERS:

MY TIME: _____



S

Starting with the letter S (for September) name a:

- | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. girl's name | 5. body part | |
| 2. vegetable | 6. country | |
| 3. tree | 7. chemical element | |
| 4. animal | 8. occupation | |
| 9. make of car | 14. book | 19. spice |
| 10. tool | 15. fish | 20. color |
| 11. piece of furniture | 16. type of boat | 21. abbreviation |
| 12. planet | 17. sport | 22. movie title |
| 13. food | 18. footwear | 23. school subject |

ANSWERS TO SUM RUN:
 103: 20, 36, 47
 109: 14, 23, 72
 142: 22, 32, 88.
SUGGESTED RESPONSES TO "S" EXERCISE: 1. Sarah, 2. squash, 3. spruce, 4. snake, 5. scapula, 6. Syria, 7. sodium, 8. surgeon, 9. Saab, 10. saw, 11. sofa, 12. Saturn, 13. spaghetti, 14. Sense and Sensibility, 15. salmon, 16. sailboat, 17. soccer, 18. sandal, 19. sage, 20. sapphire, 21. St., 22. Saving Private Ryan, 23. social studies. Your answers may vary.