



Entitlement is the attitude of entitlement.

Entitlement is when a privilege becomes the expectation.

HOW TO IDENTIFY ENTITLETUDE:

- When **“would”** is replaced with **“should.”**
- When **responsibility** is denied.
- When someone believes he or she is **above the rules**.

The mission statement of an entitled person: “I deserve.”

Entitlement is a rejection of reality; therefore, it is a rejection of truth.

²² Then Moses led Israel from the Red Sea and they went into the Desert of Shur. For three days they traveled in the desert without finding water. ²³ When they came to Marah, they could not drink its water because it was bitter. (That is why the place is called Marah.) ²⁴ So the people grumbled against Moses, saying, “What are we to drink?”

Exodus 15:22-24 (NIV)

When privileges become expectations, what was once a blessing to me turns into burdens that I complain about.

¹ The whole Israelite community set out from Elim and came to the Desert of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had come out of Egypt. ² In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. ³ The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the Lord’s hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death.” ⁴ Then the Lord said to Moses, “I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions. ⁵ On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days.” ⁶ So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you will know that it was the Lord who brought you out of Egypt, ⁷ and in the morning you will see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we, that you should grumble against us?” ⁸ Moses also said, “You will know that it was the Lord when he gives you meat to eat in the evening and all the bread you want in the morning, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we? You are not grumbling against us, but against the Lord.”

⁹ Then Moses told Aaron, “Say to the entire Israelite community, ‘Come before the Lord, for he has heard your grumbling.’”

Exodus 16:1-9 (NIV)

When privileges become expectations, I compare and ignore that everything I have and everything I am comes from God.

When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, “Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don’t know what has happened to him.”

Exodus 32:1 (NIV)

When privileges become expectations, I become controlling by demanding my way and not trusting God’s way.

¹ That night all the members of the community raised their voices and wept aloud. ² All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, “If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this wilderness!...⁵ Then Moses and Aaron fell facedown in front of the whole Israelite assembly gathered there. ⁶ Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes ⁷ and said to the entire Israelite assembly, “The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. ⁸ If the Lord is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. ⁹ Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will devour them. Their protection is gone, but the Lord is with us. Do not be afraid of them.” ¹⁰ But the whole assembly talked about stoning them. Then the glory of the Lord appeared at the tent of meeting to all the Israelites. ¹¹ The Lord said to Moses, “How long will these people treat me with contempt? How long will they refuse to believe in me, in spite of all the signs I have performed among them?”

Numbers 14:5-11 (NIV)

Rx
Diagnosis

ENTITLETUDE

SEE IT



needs
gratitude
generosity

Complaining, comparing, and controlling are signs that I don't believe God.

SERIES BIG IDEA:

When privileges become expectations, I won't experience the joy and blessings of life.

¹² Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. ¹⁴ Do everything without grumbling or arguing, ¹⁵ so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky ¹⁶ as you hold firmly to the word of life.

Philippians 2:12-16 (NIV)

What privileges have become an expectation in my life?

Recognizing my privileges builds my faith in God.



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TEACHING SUMMARY:

We all have had privileges turn into expectations. The entitlement creep happens to us all. “Woulds” become “shoulds,” responsibility is denied and blamed on someone else, and we can act as if we are above the rules.

When we recognize the truth that everything we have and everything we are comes from God and belongs to God, to have entitlement is a rejection of that truth.

We can easily forget our privileges and quickly ignore the truth of what God has done in us and for us. We are not the only ones who have struggled with this. The Israelites could have been diagnosed with entitlement. They complained, compared, and tried to control situations that were outside their control.

As soon as entitlement creeps in, we begin to lose sight of the blessings in our lives that were privileges at one time. We forget about the joys that were miracles. It can even lead us to forget God. However, when I begin to name my blessings and recognize my privileges that God has given me, my faith and trust in God grows.

TALK-IT-OVER:

What do you often hear other people complain about?
Or, in what ways do you see other people comparing what they have/don't have with what others have/don't have.

Which one of these three are you most guilty of:
Complaining, comparing, or controlling?

Is there a specific privilege that has become an expectation in your life?

In what ways do “counting our blessings” build our faith in God?

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING:

- Day 1) Deuteronomy 10:14-16
- Day 2) Romans 8:5-6
- Day 3) John 13:34-35; 14:15
- Day 4) Philippians 2:2-11
- Day 5) James 3:13-18
- Day 6) Isaiah 13:11