

Daily Homily  
St. Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest and Doctor of the Church  
Optional Memorial  
Sixteenth Week in Ordinary Time: Wednesday  
21 July 2021  
[USCCB Daily Readings](#)

First reading today – wonderful example – God provides! However, when we walk into any situation so much of our human nature can take over.

Self-sufficiency... I can take on whatever comes my way because I believe I have all the skills necessary to accomplish what needs to be done. When this kicks in, usually asking for help or for further clarification is seen as a sign of weakness or incompetence which isn't necessarily the case. Asking for help or assistance can usually advance one in the way of understanding.

Independence... I can do what I want, when I want, because somehow I have the authority to do so. My sixth grade teacher, Mrs. Erwin, was great on correcting us with this one. One of the class punishments she would give out was writing sentences over and over again... it seemed to work because I remember the sentence she made us write usually 100 times: I cannot do, what I want to do, when I want to do it, because I do not have the authority to do so. 100 times, several times during a school year will knock that sense of entitlement out of anyone.

Complaining... The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence, or it is greener wherever we were before.

All of these elements are embedding in the Israelites as they are journeying through the desert. Their self-sufficiency is kicking in and they want to fix their situation. Their sense of independence is kicking in and they are feeling entitled to something better. They begin to complain. The word used here is "grumble." They begin to remember their former life of oppression, manual labor, and slavery as being better than their current circumstances. Can you imagine?

The Israelites were caught up in this. Sometimes even today, we can get caught up in this situation. Sometimes these elements of our human nature can be given into and can take over. Enter God to cut through all this ... our self-sufficiency, our independence, our complaining... with this, God provides.

When it comes to any aspect of your life that seems to be dry, barren, desolate, desert-like... where there is concern you may starve... where there is anything lacking, the last thing to do is to turn to inward and on ourselves. Rather turn to the Lord, who fed the Israelites with bread from heaven, who feeds us today with bread from heaven in this Eucharist. Turn to the Lord who continues to provide for what we need.