Humbly Grateful or Grumbly Hateful?

True stories
Lauren had prayed for a promotion, or at least recognition for her work, for years. Finally, her prayers were answered, but she was placed with new coworkers — one who ignores her and the other who flies off the handle for no reason.

Anitra, age 45, is finally getting married. Her fiancé planned a destination wedding for Valentine’s week, but their flight is delayed over and over — finally rescheduled for 2 p.m. the next day — the exact time he had booked the wedding chapel.

Cheyann’s best friend once gave her Bible-based advice about forgiveness. Today she came to Cheyann for advice: forgive or not forgive. Cheyann repeated the reminders she had previously received, but — surprise! — the words were not accepted. Her friend became angry and said Cheyann’s failure to agree with her was mean. Cheyann was at a loss.

Hannah can’t understand it. Those younger women offered to help with the kitchen duties at church, but they keep changing things. Don’t they know that her group has done this for years and knows the best way? Yet, she wants and needs their help.

Can you identify with any of these women?
What is the likely outcome in each of these situations?
Can you be humble without being grateful? Can you grumble without being unkind? Without sinning?

Humbly Grateful — God’s Way
Guide My Words and Actions, O Lord!
Proverbs 15:1
Psalm 37:3 and 27
Psalm 143:10
Choose Contentment Over Contentiousness
Does what others do determine your mood? Why?
Proverbs 15:18
2 Corinthians 12:7–10
Hebrews 13:5–6
Romans 12:21
Be Prepared for the Negative Stuff
Psalm 119:143
1 John 3:11–13
1 Peter 4:12–19
Put the Best Construction on Everything
Psalm 119:165
1 Peter 3:8–11
Rely on the Power of Prayer
What is the pattern of prayer for many Psalms? Check out Psalms 4, 5, 13, 35, 64, 71, 102. (If time is short, look at the beginning and ending verses of Psalms 4 and 5.)

Think About Others
As part of the body of Christ, we need other people, but getting along with others isn’t always easy. Do we always forgive readily or think of others before self?
Proverbs 10:12
Proverbs 19:11
James 1:19
Live to Serve
Matthew 16:24–26
John 12:24–26
Psalm 37:3–9
Romans 12:1–2
Be Obedient
1 Peter 1:13–23 (key verses 14–15, 22–23)
Psalm 119:9–16
Micah 6:8
Armed with the Word, how can Lauren, Anitra, Cheyann, and Hannah be humbly grateful?

How can you turn your grumblings to gratitude?

Closing
In Your Word, You have shown me, O Lord, what is good. May I ever be just, speak and sing joyfully, love mercy and kindness over selfish gain, and ever — oh, ever — walk humbly with You, my Lord and my God. Amen.

Closing Song: “My Faith Looks Up to Thee,” (LSB #702; TLH #394) or “My Faith Looks Trustingly” (LW #378)