

# Confronting Others in their Sin!

Numbers 12:1 And **Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses** because of the **Ethiopian woman** whom he had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman. 2 And they said, Hath the Lord indeed spoken only by Moses? hath he not spoken also by us? And the Lord heard it. 3 (Now the man **Moses was very meek**, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.) 4 And **the Lord spake suddenly** unto Moses, and unto Aaron, and unto Miriam, Come out ye three unto the tabernacle of the congregation. And they three came out. 5 And the Lord came down in the pillar of the cloud, and stood in the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam: and they both came forth. 6 And he said, Hear now my words: **If there be a prophet among you**, I the Lord will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream. 7 **My servant Moses is not so**, who is

faithful in all mine house. **8** With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the Lord shall he behold: **wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?** **9** And the anger of the Lord was kindled against them; and he departed. **10** And the cloud departed from off the tabernacle; and, behold, **Miriam became leprous, white as snow:** and Aaron looked upon Miriam, and, behold, she was leprous. **11** And Aaron said unto Moses, Alas, my lord, I beseech thee, lay not the sin upon us, wherein **we have done foolishly,** and wherein we have sinned. **12** Let her not be as one dead, of whom the flesh is half consumed when he cometh out of his mother's womb. **13** And Moses cried unto the Lord, saying, Heal her now, O God, I beseech thee. **14** And the Lord said unto Moses, If her father had but spit in her face, should she not be ashamed seven days? let her be shut out from the camp seven days, and after that let her be received in again. **15** And Miriam was shut out from the camp seven days: and the people

journeyed not till Miriam was brought in again. 16 And afterward the people removed from Hazeroth, and pitched in the wilderness of Paran.

- When Satan attacks it seems that one problem will follow another I Peter 5:8-9 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, **seeking whom he may devour:** 9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith, **knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren** that are in the world.
  - One problem gets taken care of and then another follows
    - The people complained about God's provision
    - Immediately we move into a complaint about God's leadership
1. Falsely accusing the man of God! 1 And **Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses** because of the **Ethiopian woman** whom he had married: for he

had married an Ethiopian woman. **2** And they said, Hath the Lord indeed spoken only by Moses? hath he not spoken also by us? And the Lord heard it. **3** (Now the man **Moses was very meek**, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.)

- a. Both Miriam and Aaron come to speak against Moses
  - i. God had put all three of them in a leadership position in Israel For I brought thee up out of the land of Egypt, **Micah 6:4** And redeemed thee out of the house of servants; And **I sent before thee Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.**
  - ii. Don't forget how important a role that Miriam had played in Moses life **Exodus 2:1** And there went a man of the house of Levi, and took *to wife* a daughter of Levi. **2** And the woman conceived, and bare a son: and when she saw him that he *was a goodly child*, **she hid him three months.**  
**3** And when she could not longer hide him, she took for him an ark of bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with pitch, and put the child therein; and she

laid *it* in the flags by the river's brink. **4** And **his sister stood afar off**, to wit what would be done to him. **5** And the daughter of Pharaoh came down to wash *herself* at the river; and her maidens walked along by the river's side; and when she saw the ark among the flags, she sent her maid to fetch it. **6** And when she had opened *it*, she saw the child: and, behold, the babe wept. And she had compassion on him, and said, This *is one* of the Hebrews' children. **7** Then said his sister to Pharaoh's daughter, Shall I go and call to thee a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for thee? **8** And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, Go. And **the maid went and called the child's mother.** **9** And Pharaoh's daughter said unto her, Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give *thee* thy wages. And the woman took the child, and nursed it. **10** And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he

became her son. And she called his name Moses:  
and she said, Because I drew him out of the water.

iii. Miriam led the Jewish women in singing and praising

God [Exodus 15:20](#) And **Miriam the**

**prophetess**, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel

in her hand; and **all the women went out**

**after her** with timbrels and with dances. [21](#) And

**Miriam** answered them, **Sing ye to the**

**Lord**, for he hath triumphed gloriously; The horse

and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.

b. Aaron is also a man appointed by God

i. Aaron is Moses' elder brother

ii. He was Moses voice or spoke for him

iii. He was the first high priest

c. Miriam is doing the talking

i. She is the one speaking and Aaron just standing  
there with him

ii. The complaint she brings is that she does not  
approve of his wife

iii. That is not the real reason she is upset

1. Maybe she didn't like his new wife
  2. Maybe she was worried about being pushed out by the 70 leaders that have been put in place and the Lord has sent His Spirit on them
- iv. Some say it was because she married an Ethiopian and therefore a black.
1. There is not much Scripture to back that up
  2. No mention is made of her race
  3. This has just been used for an argument against interracial marriage
  4. But God ends up defending Moses and severely reprimanding Miriam so that argument didn't work
- d. The real problem was that they thought that they were on an equal leadership plane as Moses
- i. People usually attack with one accusation but there is another real problem or thing that they want to fight about
  - ii. They just need something that is not so obvious
- e. Moses was very meek
- i. The word means humility and gentleness
  - ii. It means putting yourself after others in importance
  - iii. Moses did not use force to get his way

- iv. It means that he was not proud or self assertive
- v. Meekness is a fruit of the spirit **Galatians 5:22** **But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23**  
**Meekness,** temperance: against such there is no law.

f. Practical application

- i. Don't attack anyone else or speak against them unless you are sure that you are Biblically right
  - 1. Leave preferences alone
  - 2. Do not participate in gossip
- ii. Don't be jockeying for position which may be what is happening with Miriam
- iii. Don't presume to be in a place that you are not in like Miriam did in this story
- iv. If you are attacked be like Moses and allow God to defend you
- v. Never take yourself so seriously

2. God quickly judges their sin **4** **And the Lord spake suddenly** unto Moses, and unto Aaron, and unto



Miriam, **Come out ye three unto the tabernacle of the congregation.** And they three came out. **5** And the Lord came down in the pillar of the cloud, and stood in the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam: and they both came forth. **6** And he said, Hear now my words: **If there be a prophet among you,** I the Lord will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream. **7 My servant Moses is not so,** who is faithful in all mine house. **8** With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the Lord shall he behold: **wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?** **9** And the anger of the Lord was kindled against them; and he departed. **10** And the cloud departed from off the tabernacle; and, behold, **Miriam became**

**leprous, white as snow:** and Aaron looked upon Miriam, and, behold, she was leprous.

- a. God calls all three to the Tabernacle **4** And **the Lord spake suddenly** unto Moses, and unto Aaron, and unto Miriam, **Come out ye three unto the tabernacle of the congregation.** And they three came out.
- b. Moses is more than a prophet **6** And he said, Hear now my words: **If there be a prophet among you,** I the Lord will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream. **7 My servant Moses is not so,** who is faithful in all mine house.
- c. She should have been afraid to speak against Moses **8** With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the Lord shall he behold: **wherefore**

## **then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?**

- d. God withdrew His presence **9** And the anger of the Lord was kindled against them; and he departed.
- e. He also left Miriam with leprosy **10** And the cloud departed from off the tabernacle; and, behold, **Miriam became leprous, white as snow:** and Aaron looked upon Miriam, and, behold, she was leprous.
- f. Practical application
  - i. Know that we all answer to God now in this life
  - ii. There is a right way to confront others
    1. In private with the right attitude of trying to win your brother
    2. Treating the older like your dad or mom and the younger like your brother or sister
    3. Only with evidence if it is for judgment
    4. Never gossip about them but go straight to them
    5. We should be afraid to confront others unless we have truly prepared ourselves and our hearts

- iii. You definitely should confront people if there is wrong just do it in the right way
- iv. Always be helping not trying to fight for your position
- v. This is not an either or situation. It is just do it right
- vi. Remember there are no Moses alive on the earth today
- vii. Not your pastor or anyone else is above being talked to when there is a problem and they should handle it with grace

3. Aaron quickly repents and takes responsibility **11 And Aaron said unto Moses, Alas, my lord, I beseech thee, lay not the sin upon us, wherein **we have done foolishly,** and wherein we have sinned. 12 Let her not be as one dead, of whom the flesh is half consumed when he cometh out of his mother's womb. 13 And **Moses cried unto the Lord,** saying, Heal her now, O God, I beseech thee.**

- a. When the punishment starts Aaron knows that he should have stopped his sister
- b. He admits that he is part of the sin

- c. He wanted to save His sister's life
  - d. Moses also quickly responds and ask God not to punish her
  - e. Some applications
    - i. Quickly see your sin and repent
    - ii. Don't try to blame it on someone else but see your part
    - iii. Don't be vindictive and rejoice in the punishment of others
    - iv. Forgive and ask God for mercy for those that have hurt and offended you
    - v. Realize that sin is not against the person but against God
4. Everyone has to wait because of Miriam's sin **14 And the Lord said unto Moses, If her father had but spit in her face, **should she not be ashamed seven days?** let her be shut out from the camp seven days, and after that let her be received in again. **15 And Miriam was **shut out from the camp seven******

**days:** and the people journeyed not till Miriam was brought in again. **16 And afterward** the people removed from Hazeroth, and pitched in the wilderness of Paran.

- a. Sin and rebellion always hold us back from progressing in our spiritual life
- b. Being a spiritual leader brings about more responsibility **I Timothy 5:19 Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses. 20 Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.**
  - i. You must confront only if there are two or three witnesses
  - ii. That is really true about anyone
  - iii. You can ask but you do not accuse
  - iv. They are to be rebuked even if they are pastors
    1. That is for more than just doctrinal and moral issues
    2. A pastor that offends others should be confronted
    3. That includes me

- v. Never accuse anyone unless you have witnesses that are ready to testify
- c. Though she was forgiven there were still consequences for the sin
- d. Sin and rebellion will hinder all of us
- e. Realize that it affects us now and not at the judgment