

Numbers 12-13 – Conflicts & Spies.

I. Aaron and Miriam speak against Moses.

They don't like his wife and are disregarding his authority.

"It is strange that his sister and brother - his own family - would be the source of such criticism. We might think that they would be Moses' greatest support."

"Of course, God *had* spoken to Miriam and Aaron in the past - but He had not given them the authority to lead the nation."

"Moses had no problem with pride. Quite the contrary - his accusers were the ones with a pride and jealousy problem."

God justifies Moses; "the basis of the complaint of Miriam and Aaron was essentially, "What's so special about Moses?" Here, God explained exactly what was so special about him. Most prophets receive revelation through a dream or in a vision; God spoke with Moses *face to face*." "He is faithful in all My house."

- They shouldn't have spoken against Moses because they didn't like his wife.
- They shouldn't have spoken against Moses because their criticism was simply not true; Moses was not a proud man, but the most humble man on earth.
- They shouldn't have spoken against Moses because their criticism was prompted by their own self-interest; they were jealous of all the attention Moses was receiving and wanted some of it for themselves.

Leprosy was a disease of bodily decay and corruption; it was considered to be a "walking death" - and Miriam had a seriously advanced case of leprosy instantly. At this moment, God caused her body to reflect her heart.

Now Aaron called Moses his master, attributed to Moses the power to strike Miriam with leprosy, and confessed his previous criticism as foolish and sinful.

This was the first word spoken by Moses in this chapter. He had not spoken the entire time he was accused, leaving it up to God to answer his critics.

"When a leader perceives accusations are petty, false, or self-motivated, the right thing to do is to ignore them, leave them up to God, and keep busy with what the LORD has called the leader to do - even as Jesus *was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth. (Isaiah 53:7).*"

God healed Miriam. Yet, God allowed her to live with the outward display of her inward heart for seven days - and allowed the whole nation to know it.

Proverbs 16:28 - *A perverse man sows strife, and a whisperer separates the best of friends.*

Mark 15:10 - *For he knew that the chief priests had handed Him over because of envy.*

Titus 3:9-11 - *But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless. Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition, knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.*

Hebrews 13:17 - *Obey those who rule **over** you, and be submissive, for they **watch** out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.*

1Timothy 2:1-2 - *Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.*

II. Spies sent to Canaan.

“These men were to observe the land of Canaan and bring back a report to the nation. Nevertheless, this was in the plan of God. God used the report of the spies as a test of Israel's faith.”

The list of spies; from Reuben, Shammua; from Simeon, Shaphat; from Judah, Caleb; from Issachar, Igal; from Ephraim **Hoshea**; from Benjamin, Palti; from Zebulun, Gaddiel; from Joseph, Gaddi; from Dan, Ammiel; from Asher, Sethur; from Naphtali, Nahbi and from the tribe of Gad.

The land flows with milk and honey, however, it is occupied, the people are strong, the cities are fortified and large and there are giants there.

Caleb tried to encourage the people, in vain.

FEAR: False Evidence Appearing Real,

FEAR; Forget Everything And Run.

Joshua 1:9 - "Have I **not** commanded you? **Be** strong and of good courage; **do not be afraid**, nor **be** dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

Courage is doing what you're afraid to do. There can be no courage unless you're scared. Eddie Rickenbacker.

I would define true courage to be a perfect sensibility of the measure of danger, and a mental willingness to endure it. W.T. Sherman.

2 Kings 7:4-9 - "If we say, 'We will enter the city,' the famine is in the city, and we shall die there. And if we sit here, we die also. Now therefore, come, let us surrender to the army of the Syrians. If they keep us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall only die." And they rose at twilight to go to the camp of the Syrians; and when they had come to the outskirts of the Syrian camp, to their surprise no one was there. For the Lord had caused the army of the Syrians to hear the noise of chariots and the noise of horses—the noise of a great army; so they said to one another, "Look, the king of Israel has hired against us the kings of the Hittites and the kings of the Egyptians to attack us!" Therefore they arose and fled at twilight, and left the camp intact—their tents, their horses, and their donkeys—and they fled for their lives. And when these lepers came to the outskirts of the camp, they went into one tent and ate and drank, and carried from it silver and gold and clothing, and went and hid them; then they came back and entered another tent, and carried some from there also, and went and hid it. Then they said to one another, "We are not doing right. This day is a day of good news, and we remain silent. If we wait until morning light, some punishment will come upon us. Now therefore, come, let us go and tell the king's household."

Faith does not operate in the realm of the possible. There is no glory for God in that which is humanly possible. Faith begins where man's power ends.
George Muller.

Habakkuk 2:4 - "Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the just shall live by his faith."

Joel 2:21 - Fear not, O land; Be glad and rejoice, For the LORD has done marvelous things!

James 2:26 - For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.