

MIRIAM

Moses mediated on behalf of Miriam.



THE STORY: NUM. 11:24-29 & 12:1

MONDAY

Miriam and Aaron opposed Moses

Miriam and Aaron opposed Moses – In Numbers 11, Moses set apart 70 elders just as God requested. God poured out His Spirit on them and as a result they began to prophesy. Two other men prophesied and a request was given to Moses to stop them for fear that they would undermine his leadership. Instead, Moses rejoiced and declared that it would be good if all of God’s people would prophesy. This outpouring of the Spirit upon the leaders (of whom Aaron was most certainly a part) emboldened Miriam and Aaron to criticize Moses, saying, “Has He (God) not spoken through us also?” Instead of being humbled by the gift of God, they became proud.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What is pride? (*Pride is exalting oneself over others. The Bible tells us that it is God’s job to exalt one man and bring another low [Psalm 75:6-7]. When we exalt ourselves we sin against God, trying to do God’s job and therefore trying to be God ourselves.*)

What is humility? (*Humility is the opposite of pride. Though we are not allowed to exalt ourselves we are allowed to humble ourselves. When we understand that we are sinners and that anything we accomplish is only by God’s grace, it helps us to walk in humility.*)

PRAY:

Ask God to give you and your children grace to remain humble, not thinking more highly of yourselves that you ought.





God pronounced judgment for their sin

God pronounced judgment for their sin – God humbles Miriam and Aaron in several ways. First, He came down in their midst and called them to the Tent of Meeting. This was a fearful thing indeed. God explained that Moses was set apart. God spoke to Moses face to face, not in dreams or visions like the others who prophesy. Foolishly, they thought they were Moses' equal because God had used them to prophesy. As judgment for their sin, God struck Miriam with leprosy. He wanted them to know just how sinful they were to grumble against Moses. Though God met with Moses face to face, Moses never boasted about this privileged position. As a result God could say of Moses that he was the most humble person on the earth! Aaron and Miriam spoke against Moses' wife, but at the heart of their sin was pride.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why did Miriam and Aaron grumble against Moses' wife? *(Moses' wife was a Cushite and likely had a different color skin.)*

Was Moses' Cushite wife what was really bothering Aaron and Miriam? *(No, they were jealous of Moses' position and wanted to be recognized. Pride takes two forms; we sometimes exalt ourselves by boasting and sometimes by tearing others down. Here Aaron and Miriam did both. They tore down Moses' reputation because of his wife and they exalted themselves because God had used them to prophecy. Draw your children out and have them think of when they engaged in either form of pride.)*

PRAY:

Take time for each person to confess the sin of pride. Ask that God would forgive them, save them from their sin, and pour out His Spirit on them.





Where is Jesus?

Miriam opposed Moses and was struck with leprosy. Aaron cried out to Moses, and Moses in turn cried out to the Lord. As before, the Lord heard the mediation of Moses and he offered healing to Miriam after seven days outside the camp. Moses acted as a type of Christ, standing in the gap before God. In addition, Moses modeled a humility which points to the humility of Christ. Moses did not speak out when insulted, but instead interceded for his sister. One day Jesus would come and behave the same way. Jesus did not return insult for insult but instead, interceded for those who spoke against Him.

Moses offered no payment for Miriam's sin. He instead appealed to the mercy of God. God's mercy was made possible through the work of the Christ who was yet to come. What Jesus did made it possible for Miriam to be welcomed back into camp.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How did Jesus demonstrate humility? *(Jesus gave up His glory to take upon Himself the nature of a man. And Jesus took upon Himself the punishment we deserved in humble obedience to the Father.)*

How does the humility of Moses point to the humility of Christ? *(Moses did not boast of his place as God's mediator. He also did not return insult for insult but cared for Miriam in her sin and mediated for her rather than think of himself.)*

PRAY:

Thank Jesus for His willingness to humble Himself and take our sin upon the cross.



Moses mediated on their behalf and God demonstrated mercy

Moses mediated on their behalf and God demonstrated mercy – Miriam and Aaron were Moses' brother and sister. They were jealous of their brother's leadership and angry that he had married a Cushite woman. Even though his sister opposed him, Moses pleaded for mercy for her. God heard Moses' prayer and commanded that she should stay out of the camp for seven days, as required by the Law in Leviticus 13. After that, she returned, healed, to a normal life. Her healing is evident by the fact that she was allowed back into the camp. God's mercy was also shown in that He did not move the people of God for those seven days.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How was the mercy of God shown to Miriam? *(God heard Moses' prayer and healed Miriam. And while she was outside the camp for seven days, God did not move the people.)*

If God were to give leprosy to us for complaining, how many of us would be sick? *(We all would be sick for we all complain.)*

PRAY:

Thank God for His wonderful mercy; that He does not treat us as our sins deserve.



THE STORY: HAGGAI 2:20-23

FRIDAY

On the road to Emmaus.

In Haggai, the Lord says that Zerubbabel will be made to be like the signet ring of God, because God has chosen him. Zerubbabel was a ruler in the line of David. In Jeremiah 22:24-26 God used the picture of a signet ring cast to the ground to signify the giving over of His people to captivity. Every time a king in the line of David rules, it points to Christ who would also one day rule in the line of David. In this case the words "On that day" tell us there is a future day in view in this prophetic word. Christ is ultimately the signet ring of God.

A signet ring bore the mark of the owner. The impression of the ring was like a signature. The mark of the owner's signet ring upon a document meant that the document was as reliable and authentic as if the owner had spoken the words in person. Jesus is the signet ring of the Father. That is why Jesus said, "If you knew me you would know my father also." (John 8:19) and "I and the Father are one." (John 10:30).

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why do all the kings in David's line point to Christ? *(The Messiah was to be a son of David. Jesus is the eternal Son of David who reigns forever.)*

Why was Jesus the signet ring of God? *(Jesus introduced us to the Father. He was the Word become flesh. He himself is Emmanuel, God with us.)*

PRAY:

Thank God for sending Jesus to be born into the line of David and made a king forever. Thank him for sending Jesus to die for our sins upon the cross.

