

Numbers 12 - What If?

Miriam and Aaron began to talk against Moses

Num 12:1-16 NIV Miriam and Aaron began **to talk against Moses** because of his Cushite wife, for he had married a Cushite [**Cush linked to Ethiopia - likely a black woman**].

- **What do you think about people who are different than you? (prejudice)**
 - How you talk about others is an indication
- **All people have value**
 - because **God created them**
 - because **JESUS DIED FOR THEM**
- **The only distinction that matters** - is who will be the **sheep** and who will be the **goats**
 - Rev 7:9-10 NIV After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language...

What if we only talked about people in ways that esteem their value to the LORD?

They pointed out a "flaw" in Moses because their own were too ugly to admit to

2 "Has the LORD spoken only through Moses?" they asked. "Hasn't he also spoken through us?"

- Maybe prejudice wasn't the real issue - **maybe it was jealousy**
- Of course the LORD has spoken through them -- Miriam was a prophet - and Aaron was the spokesperson for Moses before Pharaoh

What if we were able to see the beam in our own eye?

The LORD heard it

And the LORD heard this. (in the last chapter the LORD heard the complaining)

What if we lived life acknowledging that the LORD sees, the LORD hears and the LORD cares about what we say and do?

Moses reacted with Humility

3 (Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.)

- Rom 12:19 - do not take vengeance - vengeance is mine I will repay

What if our response to those who come against us was always with humility?

The LORD took action

4 **At once the LORD said to Moses, Aaron and Miriam,** "Come out to the tent of meeting, all three of you." So the three of them went out. 5 Then the LORD came down in a pillar of cloud; he stood at the entrance to the tent and summoned Aaron and Miriam. When the two of them stepped forward, 6 he said, "Listen to my words: "When there is a prophet among you, I, the LORD, reveal myself to them in visions, I speak to them in dreams. 7 But this is not true of my servant Moses; he is **faithful**

in all my house. 8 With him I **speak face to face, clearly and not in riddles**; he **sees the form of the LORD**. Why then **were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?**"

9 The anger of the LORD burned against them, and he left them.

What if we could understand how our actions toward others affects the heart of God?

We try to recruit people to our cause - Miriam seemed to be the instigator

10 When the cloud lifted from above the tent, Miriam's skin was leprous--it became as white as snow. Aaron turned toward her and saw that she had a defiling skin disease, 11 and he said to Moses, "Please, my lord, I ask you not to hold against us **the sin we have so foolishly committed**. 12 Do not let her be like a stillborn infant coming from its mother's womb with its flesh half eaten away."

- Aaron acknowledged that their attitude was sin -- this is really the turning point when it comes to changing

What if we handled our conflicts with others one-on-one instead of including others?

Once again Moses acts with humility and prayed for them

Moses humility seen here as well - He AGAIN becomes the intercessor

13 So Moses cried out to the LORD, "Please, God, heal her!" 14 The LORD replied to Moses, "If her father had spit in her face, would she not have been in disgrace for seven days? Confine her outside the camp for seven days; after that she can be brought back." 15 So Miriam was confined outside the camp for seven days, and the people did not move on till she was brought back. 16 After that, the people left Hazeroth and encamped in the Desert of Paran.

Jesus is faithful over God's house...let us not stand against Him

Vs 7 Moses; he is **faithful** in all my house

- **Aaron and Miriam stood against Moses even though he was considered by God to be faithful...**

Heb 3:5-8 NIV "Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's house," bearing witness to what would be spoken by God in the future. 6 But **Christ is faithful as the Son over God's house**. And we are his house, if indeed we hold firmly to our confidence and the hope in which we glory. 7 So, as the Holy Spirit says: "**Today, if you hear his voice, 8 do not harden your hearts** as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the wilderness,