

## **NUM. 12:13 -- JEALOUSY AND ENVY OR FORGIVENESS AND PRAYER? -- "PLEASE HEAL HER, O GOD, I PRAY!"**

**Num 12:13 So Moses cried out to the LORD, saying, "Please heal her, O God, I pray!"**

The Biblical Setting: Jealousy and envy; then forgiveness and prayer!

- In chapter 11, the seventy elders have been appointed. God told Moses to gather together seventy men whom you know to be the elders of the people. There is no mention of Miriam or Aaron taking part in this appointing.
- Now in chapter 12, we see Aaron and Miriam speaking against Moses.
- Notice that Moses received much honor from God, yet received so many slights and affronts from men. Aaron and Miriam here; Korah, along with Nathan and Abiram in chapter 16.
- Should any of us think such trials either strange or hard, and be either provoked or discouraged by them? But who would have thought that disturbance should be created to Moses.
- Notice that Moses' own relatives were themselves serious and good. They were eminent in religion, Miriam a prophetess, Aaron the high priest, both of them joint-commissioners with Moses for the deliverance of Israel. Mic 6:4, *I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.*
- We see this disturbance helps to confirm the call of Moses, and shows that **his advancement was purely by the Divine favor**, and not by any compact or collusion with his relatives, who themselves grudged his advancement.
- It would grieve one to see the hand of Aaron in so many trespasses, but it shows that *the law made men priests who had infirmity*. **Aaron ought to have remembered how Moses stood his friend when God was angry with him for making the golden calf (Deu 9:20)**, and not to have rendered him evil for good.
- Two things they quarreled with Moses about: - 1. About his marriage to an Ethiopian woman and 2. About his government; not the mismanagement of it, but the monopolizing of it (Num 12:2): "*Has the Lord indeed spoken only through Moses? Must he alone have the choice of the persons on whom the spirit of prophecy shall come?*"
- **Striving to be greatest** is a sin which easily besets disciples themselves, and it is exceedingly sinful. (*Mt. 20:20*, mother of James and John seeking favorite positions for her sons) Even those that are well preferred are seldom pleased if others be better preferred. Those that excel are often envied.
- We see the wonderful patience of Moses under this provocation. *The Lord heard it (Num 12:2)*, but Moses himself took no notice of it, for (Num 12:3) **he was very humble**.
- Moses did not resent the injury done him, nor complain of it to God, nor make any appeal to him; but God resented it. He hears all we say in our passion, and is a swift witness of our hasty speeches, which is a reason why we should resolutely bridle our tongues, that we speak not ill of others, and why we should patiently stop our ears, and not take notice of it, if others speak ill of us. **The more silent we are in our own cause the more is God engaged to plead it.**
- Moses had often shown himself jealous for God's honor, and **now God showed Himself jealous for His reputation; for those that honor God he will honor, nor will he ever be behind-hand with any that appear for him.**
- Aaron and Miriam were made to know that great as they were they must not pretend to be equal to Moses, nor set up as rivals with him, v. 6-8.
- God, having thus shown them their fault and folly, next shows them his displeasure (Num 12:9): *The anger of the Lord was aroused against them*, of which perhaps some sensible indications were given in the change of the colour of the cloud, or some flashes of lightning from it. But indeed it was indication enough of his displeasure that he departed, and would not so much as hear their excuse, for he needed not, *understanding their thoughts afar off*; and thus he would show that he was displeased. God's judgment upon Miriam (Num 12:10): The cloud departed from off that part of the tabernacle, in token of God's

displeasure, and presently Miriam became leprous; when God goes, evil comes; expect no good when God departs.

- Aaron's submission hereupon (Num 12:11, Num 12:12); he humbles himself to Moses, confesses his fault, and begs pardon. He that but just now joined with his sister in speaking against Moses is here forced for himself and his sister to make a penitent address to him, and in the highest degree to magnify him (as if he had the power of God to forgive and heal) whom he had so lately vilified.
- (Num 12:12): Let her not be as one dead, that is, "Let her not continue so separated from conversation, defiling all she touches, and even to putrefy above ground as one dead." He eloquently describes the misery of her case, to move his pity.
- The intercession made for Miriam: **Num 12:13 So Moses cried out to the LORD, saying, "Please heal her, O God, I pray!"**
- He cried unto the Lord with a loud voice, because the cloud, the symbol of his presence, was removed and stood at some distance, and to express his fervency in this request.
- By this example **we are taught to pray for those that spitefully use us; and not to take pleasure in the most righteous punishment inflicted either by God or man on those that have been injurious to us.**
- The hindrance that this gave to the people's progress: The people journeyed not till Miriam was brought in again, Num 12:15. God did not remove the cloud, and therefore they did not remove their camp.

### **SUMMARY:**

- **How often do you find jealousy and envy creeping into your life?**
- **Is that jealousy and envy often causing you to impede what the Lord wants to do through you?**
- **How often do you turn those who come against you into forgiveness and prayer for them?**
- **Remember Aaron and Miriam, their sin, its consequences.**
- **Also remember Moses' humility, his forgiveness and his intercessory prayer for his sister in her leprous condition!**

### **How Great Thou Art! – Londonderry Choir**

*1. O Lord my God, When I in awesome wonder, / Consider all the worlds Thy Hands have made;  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, / Thy power throughout the universe displayed.*

*Chorus: - Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee, / How great Thou art, How great Thou art.  
Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee, / How great Thou art, How great Thou art!*

*2. When through the woods, and forest glades I wander, / And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees.  
When I look down, from lofty mountain grandeur / And see the brook, and feel the gentle breeze.  
Chorus*

*3. And when I think, that God, His Son not sparing; / Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;  
That on the Cross, my burden gladly bearing, / He bled and died to take away my sin.  
Chorus*

*4. When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation, / And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.  
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration, / And then proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!"  
Chorus*