

NUM. 12:13 -- JEALOUSY AND ENVY!

11/11/2017 Sat Morn Prayer – Phil Twente, 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com

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

"O WORSHIP THE KING - – Robert Grant; Joslin Grove Choral

*1 O worship the King all-glorious above, O gratefully sing God's power and God's love:
our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days, pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.
2 O tell of God's might, oh sing of God's grace, whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.
God's chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form, and bright is God's path on the wings of the storm.
3 Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite? It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain, and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.
4 Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail, in Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail.
Thy mercies, how tender, how firm to the end, our Maker, **Defender**, Redeemer, and Friend!*

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.



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

- 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. Here in chapter 12, Aaron and Miriam; Later Korah, along with Nathan and Abiram in chapter 16. **Jude 1:11** *Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.*
- 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.
- Moses' own relatives were themselves serious and good. They were eminent in their positions, 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. Miriam and Aaron Oppose Moses. **Num. 12:6-8** *Then He said, "Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the LORD, make Myself known to him in a vision; I speak to him in a dream. [7] Not so with My servant Moses; He is faithful in all My house. [8] I speak with him face to face, Even plainly, and not in dark sayings; And he sees the form of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid To speak against My servant Moses?"*
- 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 as 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. **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 color of the cloud, or some flashes of lightning from it. 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*): *Please do not let her be as one dead, whose flesh is half consumed when he comes out of his mother's womb!*" 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!"*
- By this example we are taught to pray for those that despitefully 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 did not journey till Miriam was brought in again, Num. 12:15 So Miriam was shut out of the camp seven days, and the people did not journey till Miriam was brought in again*

SUMMARY:

- **How do you respond to jealousy and envy creeping into your life?**
- **Does jealousy and envy often cause you to impede what the Lord wants to do through you?**
- **How often and how quickly 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 and how the LORD responded on Moses' behalf!**

Pray Today For: Our Church, Nationally/locally; Our Nation: Our leaders; Police officers/military. Supreme Ct. Justices: John Roberts, Jr., Anthony Kennedy, Clarence Thomas, Ruth Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, Samuel Alito, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan and Neil Gorsuch; President & V.P.: Donald & Melania Trump; Mike & Karen Pence. General James Kelly. The Cabinet and all advisors. Appointee - Christopher Wray, F.B.I.

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