

NUMBERS 12 | SERMON NOTES

Imiola Church | Kahu David Blevins | Wednesday, June 3, 2020

Open: Israelites have left Mount Sinai/Horeb and are now camping out at Hazeroth

Numbers 12:1-2

- The fact that Miriam is named first and the structure of the Hebrew shows us that Miriam was the instigator of the gossip/the evil tongue

1.) A Cushite: black or Midianite (Reference: Habakkuk 3:7) or beautiful

- Zipporah didn't join up with the Israelites till Mount Sinai (she was the 'Johnny come lately') (Reference: Exodus 18:5-6)
- We are not sure of her origin or what they said about her but the text does imply that it had to do with her ethnicity.

2.) The complaining was a pretext/cover for the real sin

- Maybe what they said about Zipporah was true
- What they were after was a share in Moses' leadership (greed again - Reference: Numbers 11:4)
 - Greed: desired a desire
 - Where did this greed derive from?
 - Their own gifting as prophets (the "only" issue)

In Chapter 11 Moses was challenged by the "rabble", here he is challenged by the prophets.

Lesson #1: It's not so much about speaking evil of Moses/ leadership, but why are you speaking evil of leadership?

Numbers 12:3-9 The Uniqueness of Moses

- 1.) His Leadership was unique that's why they challenged his authority
- 2.) His humility (He didn't write this Numbers 12:3)
 - 'now the man Moses': emphasis is on his humility

(Continued: Numbers 12 | Sermon Notes)

3.) God's confirmation of Moses' uniqueness (**Reference:** Numbers 12:6-8)

- Numbers 12:7 - "not so"
- Numbers 12:4 - suddenly: Moses had nothing to with this judgment that was about to come down
- 'you three come out': you're in trouble
- Numbers 12:9 - the anger of the Lord: Moses learned this lesson
 - (**Reference:** Exodus 4:14)
- What was the lesson Moses learned? Fear God and true humility
- Numbers 12:8 "not afraid" contrast with Numbers 12:3

Lesson #2: If there is no fear of God then your tongue will speak evil. (Reference: James 3:8-18)

Numbers 12:10-16 The anger of the Lord: increased with them (Reference: Number 12:2)

- In the midst of the confrontation God's anger only increased
- This is in-house (within the family)]
- The cloud leaving: God's love and compassion

"Moses deal with this" (who's going to save this marriage?)

1.) Aaron as High Priest could confirm it was Leprosy (*Tzara'at*)

- He also know why it came about. (*Lashon Hara* - **Reference:** Numbers 12:11)

2.) "Lord" (**Reference:** Numbers 12:11) Aaron who denied Moses' supremacy is now forced to acknowledge it.

3.) Aaron has no choice but to turn to the very one they slandered to save them

(**Reference:** Numbers 12:11- humility and Jesus)

- Rabbis believed Aaron lost his prophetic gifting that is why he had to turn to Moses his brother on behalf of Miriam

4.) The situation is so bad Aaron describes Miriam as a stillborn

(**Reference:** Numbers 12:12)

(Continued: Numbers 12 | Sermon Notes)

5.) Moses intercedes on their behalf

- Miriam is healed instantly. (**Reference:** Leviticus 13:12-15)

- Spit in her face and 7 days outside the camp: her shame and it affected the whole camp

Lesson #3: If we know that only shame and angering of God can come from our evil words let's stop using them because it was for our sin and shame. Yeshua was taken outside the camp and crucified.

YouTube Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1gKsPMR00_Y