

Glen Park Gospel Church
Tuesday Evening Bible Study Group Notes

Rev Chris Trinham

From Egypt to Canaan

No 9

Moses My Servant

Numbers 12:1-16

It is a great privilege to be a servant of the Lord. God calls men and women to serve Him in different ways. Whom He calls, He equips and qualifies for that task. Thus, although all His children are equally precious to Him, each is uniquely positioned in the service given to them. There is a life long obligation upon the called to fulfil their distinctive ministry and an injunction on all to facilitate, as far as it is possible, each other's place in ministry. This study looks at what God expects of His servants, and what happens when we get it wrong.

God Called Moses, Aaron and Miriam to Their Tasks. In Micah 6:4 the Lord God tells us that He appointed each to their particular task, Moses as leader, Aaron as priest and Miriam as prophetess (Exodus 15:20 & 28:1)

Indeed, I brought you up from the land of Egypt and ransomed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron and Miriam. Micah 6:4.

We each have our place and calling in the body of Christ Ephesians 4:11-14. God has given the work of ministry, and building the body of Christ to every believer, but some are equipped for special tasks. In this respect, there are differences of calling, equipment and endowment. We must come to understand and appreciate these distinctives that we and others possess. As we do we shall function more happily and effectively.

We Can Often Get Jealous of Others. We note that this episode followed closely on the appointing of the Seventy to places of leadership and responsibility. We also note that Aaron and Miriam were Moses'

brother and sister, those closest to him upon whom he should have been able to rely. It seems that they were not consulted.

We need to remember that whilst matters of church policy and politics ought to be democratic, matters of ministry are not, as they must be Spirit led and Spirit powered. The leader or minister must be free to act.

We notice too that in verse 1 Miriam is mentioned first, and it was she who became leprous. This problem seems to have come initially from her. Aaron went along.

Their attack on Moses was through his wife, her non-Hebrew origin. They deliberately, erroneously called her a Cushite. This however, was a blind.

The real issue is in v2. They resented being second to their brother. The Lord heard.

Moses Did Not Retaliate. Verse three says that he was the meekest of all men. Meekness is 'controlled strength', a necessary trait of the believer under attack Psalm 38:13-15. The verse is necessary for us to understand the passage.

God's Validation of Moses' Appointment.

As Moses was zealous of God's honour, so God was supporting of his: 'for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.' 1 Samuel 2:30. It is a principle with God. However this does not mean that things will always work out for our ease and comfort, but it does mean that we can leave vindication in God's care. We do learn from this, that to speak against the Lord's servant is to speak against Him, and He reserves the vengeance to Himself.

To prophets of old God spoke by visions by day and dreams by night. Not so Moses, with him God communed directly, albeit through the cloud. For us it is mostly as Paul prayed for the Ephesian Christians, that:

the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. Ephesians 1:17.

The Lord gave this testimony, 'He is faithful in all my household,' v7. In this he was a type of Christ, who was faithful over God's house, whose house we are Hebrews 3:1-2. As the Hebrews looked to Moses, so we look to Jesus Christ.

Jesus is superior to Moses in that

Moses was faithful as a servant, whereas Jesus was faithful as a son. By His faithfulness unto death, we are called to become sons through faith. Being obedient as sons, we are then called to be faithful as servants. Many others have shared this form of commitment, and there is none who may not. We too ought to seek to be wholly faithful to God in our calling.

God's Displeasure Against Miriam as the instigator is evidenced by the leprosy. There are other instances of this. See: Gehazi 2 Kings 5:27, and Uzziah 2 Chronicles 26:19. It indirectly affected Aaron as he, as priest, would be called upon to pronounce her a leper and exclude her from the community and the place of worship.

Moses' Prayer for his sister's healing was answered. The Lord's reply to Moses was that she had been spoiled as a child and should have been disciplined. To 'spit in the face' was an act of displeasure, even public censure for the truculent in those days. Deuteronomy 25:5-10 & cp Ruth 4. She was however to undergo discipline now at the Lord's hand. Let us remember that the Lord disciplines us because He loves us as sons.

Bible quotations in this study are from the NASB, unless otherwise acknowledged.

Welcome Glen Park Gospel Church
Lower Road, Eltham North
Sundays 10.30 am

These notes may be reproduced in part or in full when distributed without cost, with the words 'Used by Permission, Glen Park Gospel Church.' included.