

## Reflection 1: Miriam

### Exodus 2:1-10: Miriam: Brave and courageous

### Exodus 15:20-21: Miriam: An exuberant leader

### Numbers 12

1 Miriam and Aaron began to talk against Moses because of his Cushite wife, for he had married a Cushite. 2 "Has the Lord spoken only through Moses?" they asked. "Hasn't he also spoken through us?" And the Lord heard this. 3 (Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.)

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.

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."

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.

## Reflection

Miriam's life as recorded in the Bible reveals a woman of strong character. She can be bold and courageous as she was when introducing her self to Pharaoh's daughter and suggesting Moses' own mother care for him. She can be joyous and loud and expressive in her worship of her God as she led the women in praise and worship and thankfulness after the parting of the Red Sea.

Miriam also gives a picture of what jealousy can do to a person and we can learn much about appropriate behaviour when jealousy and envy become our focus.

Yet throughout Miriam's life (much like throughout David's life) there remains a strong allegiance to her God. She is valued by her people because of her ministry among them. They waited until her period of cleansing from leprosy was over before leaving Hazeroth. They mourned her death. She was recognised by Micah as a leader of the people of Israel.

Her story makes me hope that at the end of my life I will be remembered as a good and faithful servant of my Lord Jesus Christ. How about you? What will your legacy be to your Christian community?

Pray that as you reflect on what the Lord has done for you that your response might be an overwhelming willingness to be his good and faithful servant to the end of your days.