

**Numbers 12:1-16- NKJV**  
**Miriam and Aaron: We are all on the same team**

As God's servants we must guard against:

1) **Gossip**

- This wasn't the real issue but this is how it started between Miriam and Aaron.
- "The marriage would not have been wrong in itself, as God had merely forbidden the Israelites to marry the daughters of Canaan" (Exodus 34)<sup>1</sup>.
- Instead of going to Moses about their "concern" they sought to discuss it amongst themselves.
- *Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.* **Matthew 18:15**
- *He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets; Therefore do not associate with one who flatters with his lips.* **Proverbs 20:19**
- *being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, <sup>30</sup>backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents.* **Romans 1:29-31**
- Often our greatest adversaries are not those that are outside of the church or the world, but those that are inside. We must guard against this; we are all on the same team, God's team.

2) **Envy**

- This was the real issue. It was masked by the "concern" of Moses' Cushite wife but the real issue was envy.
- They were possibly upset that God sent the 70 instead of using them; God knew they were not in the right mindset.
- *So they said, "Has the LORD indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us also?" And the LORD heard it.* **Numbers 12:2**
- *For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, I redeemed you from the house of bondage; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.* **Micah 6:4**
- They were being selfish; they were more concerned about themselves rather than what God was doing. When we focus on God and what He is doing there is not time to put our eyes on our self.

3) **Pride**

- Putting the focus on ourselves, having more concern for us than the things of God.
- *But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.* **Galatians 6:14**  
Paul had everything to boast in but he didn't.
- Pride (selfishness) is at the base of every sin in our life.
- May our prayer be "God I don't want to be me centered but you and others centered."
- Our attitude and thoughts should not be that of envy, gossip, or pride, but rather that of Jesus as we saw this week in Philippians 2. If we keep our eyes on the cross and on Jesus we won't have time for the things we have been looking at this morning.
- It is a second by second dying to ourselves and living through God!

This morning I ask that we lay our words, envy, and pride before the Lord and ask for God's view and attitude, realizing we are all in this together, all on the same team.

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<sup>1</sup> Commentary on the Old Testament, Volume 1