

Junior Sunday School Outline
Book- Numbers
Chapter- Numbers 12
Scripture- Numbers 12:1-3

Memory verse- James 3:6, *“And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity...”*

INTRODUCTION- Today, we will learn how God feels about one of His preachers being mistreated by somebody. In the previous chapter, we saw the people complain against Moses, and God was forced to punish the people for their complaining. In this chapter, even those closest to Moses, his own sister and brother, begin to complain against him, and God is forced to punish them for their complaining against Moses.

I. MIRIAM AND AARON COMPLAIN AGAINST MOSES (v.1-12)

A. Miriam and Aaron complain about the position that Moses was given by God (v.1-2)- Apparently, Moses’ sister and brother became jealous about God using their little brother, Moses, in a greater way than God was using them. Miriam and Aaron criticized Moses for the woman he chose to marry, because she was not a Jewish girl. However, God was not upset about Moses’ marriage to her, for that was all done before Moses was called of God to lead Israel. Then, Miriam and Aaron revealed the real reason for their gripe with Moses. They said, “Moses, God doesn’t just speak to you, you know?” By making this statement, they were saying that God has other spokesmen for the Israelites besides Moses.

B. Moses refuses to rebuke them for their complaining (v.3)- The Bible tells us that Moses did not say anything back to Miriam and Aaron to defend himself, for he was a very meek man. Meekness is “strength under control”. A meek person will not do what he could do against someone even if they provoke him to do it.

*Lk. 6:29, *“And unto him that smiteth thee on the one cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloak forbid not to take thy coat also.”*

C. God hears what they said and punishes them both (v.4-12)- God hears everything that we say. Thus, when Miriam and Aaron spoke against God’s man, God called all three of them to the Tabernacle. God asked them how come they were not scared to speak against the man of God, and immediately sends leprosy upon Miriam. As the high priest, Aaron would have to send his own sister outside the camp and declare her unclean. Miriam, who instigated the complaining, was given leprosy, and Aaron, who followed her in complaining, was helpless against the disease and pleads with Moses for forgiveness saying, *“we have done foolishly...we have sinned”*.

*1 Jn. 2:1, *“...And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:”*

NOTE- It is a very serious matter to attack the man of God. God does not take it lightly for any person to mistreat a preacher, Sunday School teach, or pastor.

II. MOSES PLEADS TO GOD FOR MIRIAM (v.13-16)

A. Moses begs God to heal his sister of her leprosy (v.13-14)- Moses is the one who had been done wrong, and yet Moses is the one begging God to have mercy on the one who had wronged him. God answers Moses prayer, but requires that Miriam remain outside the camp for seven days until she could be pronounced "clean" once again. This time outside the camp would be a humiliating experience for Miriam, and she would have plenty of time to think about what she had done and feel ashamed of herself. The tongue that was used to criticize God's leader is now used to signify to others that she was "unclean, unclean". Finally, when the spanking is over, she would return to the camp a better person for having endured the correction for God.

*Heb. 12:6, *"For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth..."*

*Heb. 12:11, *"...no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness..."*

B. Israel had to wait until Miriam returned before they could continue their journey (v.15-16)- One person's critical spirit and loose tongue caused an entire nation to have to sit still in the same place and no progress was made for a whole week! Everyone in the camp had to suffer just because one person's loose tongue—so be careful little mouth what you say!

III. CONCLUSION

1. Just because someone does something bad to you doesn't mean you must get even by doing something bad back to them.
2. Usually, when we try to seek revenge, we will end up doing wrong to that person to a worse degree than they had done wrong unto us.
3. We say things like, "that's what they get" or "well, they did it to me" or "pay-backs are tough".
4. We may even know that getting even is not what we should do, but we do it anyway because "at least we feel better".
5. This is not what Jesus would have us do to others.
6. Imagine if God got even with us for every sin we have committed against Him.
7. If we all got what we deserve, we would all be cast into the lake of fire forever.
8. But, if only we will trust Christ as our Saviour, God will forgive us of all those sins.
9. Has all of your sins been forgiven by the Lord? Are you going to Heaven?
10. Song, "Be careful little mouth what you say"