

PEOPLE LIKE US

July 12
Miriam
Comparison, leadership, and more

Scripture

Exodus 2:1-10, 15:19-21 | Numbers 12:1-15 | Philippians 4:8-13

- Have you wanted someone else's opportunity, recognition, role, or possessions? If so, what was it?
 - What made it look desirable from where you stood?
- What is something you thought would be easy... until you actually had to do it?
 - How did seeing it up close change your perspective?

Diving IN

- What do Miriam's earlier appearances in *Exodus 2 & 15* reveal about her?
 - Why is it important to remember these parts of her story before reading *Numbers 12*?
- In *Numbers 12*, what reasons do Miriam and Aaron give for criticizing Moses?
 - What seems to be underneath their words?
- How might comparison have changed the way Miriam viewed her own calling and Moses' calling?
 - What blessings in her life had she stopped noticing?
- *Numbers 12:3* describes Moses as humble. How does Moses' response to criticism demonstrate (Biblical) humility?
 - What is the difference between humility and simply thinking poorly of yourself?
- What does God emphasize about Moses in *Numbers 12:4-8*?
- What had Miriam and Aaron misunderstood about leadership and things like God's choice?
- After Miriam is judged, Moses immediately asks God to heal her. What does his prayer reveal about his character?
 - What does it teach us about responding to people who have criticized or wounded us?

- The entire community waits until Miriam can return before moving forward. What does that detail communicate about community and belonging to God's people?

Living It OUT

- Is there anywhere that comparison is making it difficult for you to appreciate what God's given you?
 - What has this produced in you? Good things? Bad things?
- Envy often begins by focusing on what someone else has. What might change if you deliberately focused on God's faithfulness in your own life?
- Where are you tempted to look down on someone because of what you have (both extrinsic and intrinsic)?
 - What would it look like to view that person through a lens of humility?
- How can we distinguish between appropriate concern about a leader and criticism driven by sinful expressions like pride, jealousy, or personal preference?
 - What role should prayer, Scripture, honesty, and humility play?
- Why might learning to follow and serve faithfully be part of God's preparation for leadership?
 - Where could God be asking you to serve well before seeking greater influence?
 - What kind of leader was Jesus? Can you give an example of it?
- In *Philippians 4*, we read that contentment is something Paul learned. What is currently shaping your contentment?
- What would it look like to practice *Philippians 4:8* this week?
- What is one specific blessing you have been overlooking?
 - How could you turn your attention toward gratitude this week?

Lifting it UP

- Praise God that His purposes can't be thwarted.
- Confess places where comparison or covetousness have taken root.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to form humility and contentment in you.
- Pray for the ability to joyfully celebrate how God is working and blessing others.
- Examine yourself. Then, thank God for placing you where He has for His purpose.