

## Miriam

### “Wonder Woman” of the Old Testament

#### 2.4.24 (NLT Version)

##### I. A little about Miriam

##### A. Miriam has a baby brother

Exodus 2: About this time, a man and woman from the tribe of Levi got married. <sup>2</sup>The woman became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She saw that he was a special baby and kept him hidden for three months. <sup>3</sup>But when she could no longer hide him, she got a basket made of papyrus reeds and waterproofed it with tar and pitch. She put the baby in the basket and laid it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile River. <sup>4</sup>The baby’s sister then stood at a distance, watching to see what would happen to him.

<sup>5</sup>Soon Pharaoh’s daughter came down to bathe in the river, and her attendants walked along the riverbank. When the princess saw the basket among the reeds, she sent her maid to get it for her. <sup>6</sup>When the princess opened it, she saw the baby. The little boy was crying, and she felt sorry for him. “This must be one of the Hebrew children,” she said.

<sup>7</sup>Then the baby’s sister approached the princess. “Should I go and find one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?” she asked.

<sup>8</sup>“Yes, do!” the princess replied. So the girl went and called the baby’s mother.

<sup>9</sup>“Take this baby and nurse him for me,” the princess told the baby’s mother. “I will pay you for your help.” So the woman took her baby home and nursed him.

<sup>10</sup>Later, when the boy was older, his mother brought him back to Pharaoh’s daughter, who adopted him as her own son. The princess named him Moses,<sup>[a]</sup> for she explained, “I lifted him out of the water.”

B. Miriam celebrates the great escape

Exodus 15:<sup>20</sup> Then Miriam the prophet, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine and led all the women as they played their tambourines and danced. <sup>21</sup> And Miriam sang this song:

“Sing to the LORD,  
for he has triumphed gloriously;  
he has hurled both horse and rider  
into the sea.”

C. Miriam is irritated with Moses

Numbers 12:<sub>1</sub> While they were at Hazeroth, Miriam and Aaron criticized Moses because he had married a Cushite woman. <sup>2</sup> They said, “Has the LORD spoken only through Moses? Hasn't he spoken through us, too?” But the LORD heard them. <sup>3</sup> (Now Moses was very humble—more humble than any other person on earth.)

D. Miriam is held accountable

Numbers 12:4-8 <sup>4</sup> So immediately the LORD called to Moses, Aaron, and Miriam and said, “Go out to the Tabernacle,<sup>[a]</sup> all three of you!” So the three of them went to the Tabernacle. <sup>5</sup> Then the LORD descended in the pillar of cloud and stood at the entrance of the Tabernacle.<sup>[b]</sup> “Aaron and Miriam!” he called, and they stepped forward. <sup>6</sup> And the LORD said to them, “Now listen to what I say:

“If there were prophets among you,  
I, the LORD, would reveal myself in visions.  
I would speak to them in dreams.

<sup>7</sup> But not with my servant Moses.  
Of all my house, he is the one I trust.

<sup>8</sup> I speak to him face to face,  
clearly, and not in riddles!  
He sees the LORD as he is.  
So why were you not afraid  
to criticize my servant Moses?”

## E. Miriam is disciplined

Numbers 12:9-11<sup>9</sup> The LORD was very angry with them, and he departed. <sup>10</sup>As the cloud moved from above the Tabernacle, there stood Miriam, her skin as white as snow from leprosy.<sup>[c]</sup> When Aaron saw what had happened to her, <sup>11</sup>he cried out to Moses, “Oh, my master! Please don’t punish us for this sin we have so foolishly committed.

## F. Miriam is restored

Number 12:13<sup>13</sup> So Moses cried out to the LORD, “O God, I beg you, please heal her!”

Numbers 12:15<sup>15</sup> So Miriam was kept outside the camp for seven days, and the people waited until she was brought back before they traveled again.

## G. Miriam passes away

Numbers 20:1 In the first month of the year,<sup>[a]</sup> the whole community of Israel arrived in the wilderness of Zin and camped at Kadesh. While they were there, Miriam died and was buried.

## II. Lessons learned from Miriam

### A. Faithfulness will require risk

James 2:14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but does not have works? Can such faith save him?

### B. Legacy matters!

2 Timothy 4:<sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

#### 1.

Legacy

**“anything handed down from the past, as from an ancestor or predecessor:”**

## 2. General observations

Like it or not we leave a legacy

Generally speaking most of us want to leave a good one

We have great input in our legacy

## 3. Where are the prevalent places to leave a legacy?

--Family

--Local body..."Church"

I Cor 12:7 A manifestation of the Spirit is given to each person for the common good:

--Community/Life circle

## 4. How to leave a high impact legacy

We can mend the mess

Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they won't become discouraged.

We can be generous

II Corinthians 8:7 Now as you excel in everything—in faith, speech, knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love for us<sup>[a]</sup>—excel also in this act of grace.

We can help people!

Galatians 6:2 Carry one another's burdens; in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

We can do our part in the local body

I Cor 12:7 A manifestation of the Spirit is given to each person for the common good:

We can pursue Jesus

I Tim 1:16 But I received mercy for this reason, so that in me, the worst of them, Christ Jesus might demonstrate his extraordinary patience as an example to those who would believe in him for eternal life.

Close:

What will they say about me/you in 100 years?