

Communion Meditation – In the Wilderness

Numbers 12.1-15

Challenging Authority

December 28th, 2014

Ostensible vs. True Motivation

- **v1** ~ Miriam and Aaron criticize Moses
 - The cause is because of his wife / but what is their complaint? (**v2**)
 - He married outside of his ethnic line (Semitic) but God didn't judge
 - Real reason? / Miriam and Aaron are jealous of Moses
 - The contempt others have had for him has finally surfaced in them
- **v2** ~ Ends with the phrase, “**And the Lord heard it.**”
 - Then we're told that Moses is the most humble man on earth
 - (**What's funny is that Moses likely wrote these words...**)

God Inflicts Miriam with Leprosy

- **v4** ~ “**Come out, you three...**” / Sounds like a parent . . .
 - **v5** ~ From the pillar of cloud He “**called Aaron and Miriam.**”
- **vss 6-8** ~ He upholds Moses' character and questions their wisdom
- **vss 9-10** ~ Miriam inflicted with leprosy
 - Miriam mentioned first in **verse 1** ~ She instigated it
- **vss 11-12** ~ Aaron pleads for Miriam
- **v13** ~ Then Moses pleads for Miriam
- Note the progression and regression (**3 – 2 – 1 – 2 – 3**)
- **vss 14-15** ~ Entire company must wait 7 days / Sin affects everyone

Challenging Authority / Rebellion

- Challenging authority is at the heart of this story
 - The temptation to rebel against authority is powerful in us
 - Open rebellion is often met with superior force / It was here
- **!!!: Police shooting protests / Authority challenged / Bojidar**
- Does being humble mean you cannot rebel? / Of course not - Moses
 - But what authority / power are we to rebel against?
 - And what authority / power are we to obey?

We know God hates unlawful rebellion and judges it / Read Psalm 95.7d-11

We must never rebel against God / Read Psalm 95.6-7c