

Thursday 12th November

Numbers 12: 1-9

Key Verses 12: 7,8

But this is not true of my servant Moses, he is faithful in all my house. With him I speak face to face, clearly and not in riddles; he sees the form of the Lord. Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?"

Not only is Moses declared humble, but here, as God speaks to Miriam and Aaron, God declares him to be, 1) 'my servant' and 2) 'faithful'.

The title of 'my servant' must have been such an honour for Moses to hear when spoken by God. Few others receive this status in the Old Testament. God says it of Caleb in Numbers 14v24 and applies it to David regularly. God trusted Moses with confronting Pharaoh, leading his people and receiving and passing on his commandments. Moses was a flawed human like all of us but he was totally faithful to God and trusted by God!

God reinforces the authority of Moses in these verses. He says he speaks clearly to Moses rather than through the dreams and visions given to other prophets that are open to interpretation. We can be sure that Moses, because of his humility, faithfulness and service was being completely accurate in bringing God's word to his people.

When God says, '...he sees the form of the Lord', an intimacy is implied where Moses is privileged to witness some visible expression of the presence of God. A bond exists between the two of them that is like nothing else. God affirms his chosen leader, not because of his power resourcefulness or managerial skills but because he was humble, faithful and uniquely close to God.

The expression, 'Mountain top experience' derives from the 40 days Moses spent on Mt Sinai in the presence of God. He was radiant when he came down and Aaron was the only one of many to be named as one who, '...was afraid to come near him'. (Ex 34 v 30)

Aaron's heart must have been stabbed when God said to him, '...why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?'

- Spending time with God through his word and in prayer is the only way to become more like Jesus. We may not end up with shiny faces but we may have shinier attitudes. More patient, quicker to forgive, joyful rather than critical and kind rather than bitter.
- All of us are approaching that time when we will stand before Jesus. None of us, whatever age we are, knows when that will be! According to God's word, Jesus will say one of two things to us!

'Well done, good and faithful servant. Come in and share your master's happiness.'
(Mat 25v21), or ...

'Depart from me you who are cursed, into the eternal fire.' (Mat 25v41)

Moses was greatly blessed to hear the former message while still alive! What would God say to each of us if he spoke to us now??!!