

Tuesday 10th November

Numbers 12:1-9

Key verse 12: 1-2

*12 Miriam and Aaron began to talk against Moses because of his Cushite wife, for he had married a Cushite. 2 “Has the Lord spoken only through Moses?” they asked. “Hasn’t he also spoken through us?” And the Lord heard this.*

News reporters and other scheming journalists are always on the hunt for a skeleton in the cupboard of any prominent celebrity or politician. Here jealousy rears its ugly head once again as Aaron and Miriam pick holes in Moses because he married a Cushite woman. (She would have been a black Ethiopian lady!) (Early racism?)

They use this as a defence against their own usefulness to God which they felt had been overshadowed by Moses. Their usefulness is never in question however by God!!

Jealousy can be so strong! Aaron was Moses’ brother and normally his closest ally. Miriam was the sister and a prophetess (Ex 15 v 20). So the two of them were clearly marked out for usefulness to God! Still, however they are jealous of Moses! He was getting more of the limelight than them.

I was once my school high jump champion. I’d perfected the Fosbury flop and broke the school’s record. On the day it happened, (Sports day) most people were watching the track events and my mate Gordon won the 100yd sprint! He didn’t break the record but was the man of the moment!! You know the feeling!!

Moses wasn’t bothered though because of his humility (more of that tomorrow) but God was certainly not happy with the attitude of Aaron and Miriam.

Peter was reinstated by Jesus after his 3 denials (John 21) but when Peter compared himself to John (v21), Jesus reprimanded him (v22).

We may look at the gifts others have and how God is using them. We may feel jealous because we feel we should have more of the lime light but hear God saying, as he did to Peter, ‘What is that to you?’

We don’t need to give account of how others use their gifts, only how we have used ours! (2 Cor. 5:10)