

Wednesday 11th November

Numbers 12: 1-9

Key Verses 12: 2-3

*2 “Has the Lord spoken only through Moses?” they asked. “Hasn’t he also spoken through us?” And the Lord heard this.*

*3 (Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.)*

Verse 1 tells us that Miriam and Aaron spoke ‘against’ Moses. No doubt they were trying to slur him in order to elevate themselves. Who were they speaking to about Moses? Themselves, the other elders, the people? No doubt they were speaking to the itching ears of anyone who would listen.

Moses had done nothing specifically wrong. He hadn’t picked the wrong colour paint for the tent!! He hadn’t given more care and attention to some of his people more than others! He was just trying to lead in a way that God would approve of!

Despite the honoured position of the leadership of 600,000 men (plus families), Moses maintains his humility. The writer gives him the accolade of ‘the most humble person on Earth’. Miriam and Aaron were speaking against Moses but we read of no response by Moses till in v13 when he pleads with God to heal one of his adversaries! Moses maintained a dignified silence but God heard what was going on! (v2)

Our immediate response when someone speaks against us is to go into defence mode! Our culture teaches us to look after ourselves and look after number 1!

True Biblical humility is not the weakness the world sees. Moses may well have felt the urge to defend himself but he was totally committed to obeying God’s word to the point of self-denial! Self-denial is so totally alien to us!!! He cast himself on God to protect him and sustain him. Perhaps you are thinking, as I am, of the way that Christ didn’t bicker with his accusers on the way to the cross.

Sometimes the more you try to defend yourself, the deeper the hole you dig for yourself!

Pride is the opposite of humility. Are we willing to take the risk of letting go of our need to be the centre of our universe? It’s a mark of faith if we can, as Moses did, allow God to be in control!

Humility is not just for Christian leaders but for all Disciples of Christ.

‘Can you serve your boss and others at work, helping them to succeed and be happy, even when they are promoted and you are overlooked? Can you work to make others look good without envy filling your heart? Can you minister to the needs of others to prosper when it would cast yours in the shadows? (Donald Whitney, Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian)