



**Racism: A
Pretext for
Something
Deeper
Numbers 12:1-2**

“Then Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married; for he had married an Ethiopian woman. So they said, “Has the Lord indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us also? And the Lord Heard It.”

Numbers 12:1-2

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- ▶ In the midst of a Pandemic, none quite like this world has ever seen, Christians also have had to confront the “satanistic onslaught,” of Racism as it continues to raise its ugly head
 - ▶ Once again, the accelerated negativity brought about by being an African American in this country, and its consequences, have paralyzed the progression of unity that its laws would suggest should be maintained

Observations

- ▶ My point this morning is to show you that racism, even amongst God's people, existed thousands of years ago; and it angered God then as it does today
- ▶ Also, I want to show you that racism can be a "pretext" for underlying issues that exist in one's heart (a pretext that can be diagnosed by the word of God).
Hebrews 4:12

Observations

- ▶ In this episode in the book of Numbers, as the children of Israel travelled from Egypt to Canaan, their promised land, they were held up, not by their external enemies, but by “internal strife and bickering,” with one another.
- ▶ God had to clear up this problem before they could move forward into Canaan
- ▶ Remember, that up to this point, the children of Israel had witnessed some miraculous manifestations of God’s power

Observations

As they moved through a country called “Hazelroth,” and camped there, Moses their leader, was openly criticized by Miriam, his older sister, a Prophetess (Exodus 15:20); and another leader, his brother Aaron, who was the well-respected High Priest, for having married a woman who was from Ethiopia.

- ▶ There are a lot of discussions among theologians as to whether Moses married twice, a second time to this Ethiopian woman, after Zipporah had died. Or:
- ▶ Whether Zipporah who is known as his wife in scripture, was from Ethiopia
- ▶ What MATTERS is that indeed, Moses married a woman from Ethiopia which is clear in scripture!



There Are Two Arguments Brought Up By Miriam and Aaron

They Spoke Against Moses, Questioning His Leadership By Questioning His Marital Choice

1) They said to the others, *“Aren’t you disappointed that Moses took an Ethiopian to be his wife?”* (1st Race Card Ever Played in Scripture)

2) God has always forbidden, not physical intermarriage between races, but “spiritual intermarriage” between races and even within one’s race

Observations

- ▶ Skin color doesn't matter in God's relationship with you, Galatians 3:28-29
- ▶ The Integumentary (Skin) System is the largest organ in the body; and there is NO HEAVENLY SUPERIORITY, according to the scriptures, in skin color preference
- ▶ God has always wanted His children to remain "spiritually pure," and uninfluenced by pagan and man-made religious practices, 2 Corinthians 6:14, Matthew 15:7-8, John 4:24, John 17:17

Their First Argument Was a “Straw Argument” to Their Second

- ▶ Their real problem with Moses surfaced in the pride and jealousy of their second argument, which lies at the root of racism, in general. Notice what they say next in verse 2

“Has the Lord indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us also? And the Lord heard it.”

- ▶ Can't you see the bitterness, jealousy, and pride here?

Observations

- ▶ Miriam was a prophetess, and Aaron a High Priest, but that wasn't enough for them (they wanted to be seen and viewed as Moses' equal)
- ▶ Therefore, at the root of Racism is ignorance, pride, and jealousy, *"We are worth more than you believe us to be !"*
- ▶ Acts 17:26, Paul recorded that out of one blood God made all nations to dwell on the face of the earth (Same blood types)

Now God Is Angry and Calls a Meeting of All Three Siblings!

- ▶ First, He notes a difference in these religious siblings, which is important for us
- ▶ In Numbers 12:3, the scripture says that Moses was an humble man, more humble than anyone else on earth; and God respected that, James 4:6
- ▶ Moses was highly respected by God, and appears in the New Testament, Matthew 17:1-4

Observations

- ▶ However, Moses' sister, Miriam, and his brother, Aaron, were of a different mentality

So, when God calls them together, He asks them a “rhetorical question,” in the latter part of Numbers 12:8, and didn't wait for an answer. Basically, He says *“I trust and respect Moses, So why were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?”*

(Their Pride and Arrogance
Had Consumed Them)

Now the Rest of the Story

- ▶ As God left the meeting with the siblings, Miriam, suddenly, had been given a disease by God that interestingly enough, gave her the exact opposite color of the Ethiopian woman her brother Moses had married, and she had disrespected: Her skin became Leprous and she was white as snow according to the text, (verse 10)
- ▶ When Aaron saw what had happened to his sister, he cried to his brother Moses, *“Master (my Lord), Please don’t punish us for the sin we have foolishly committed.”*

Observations

- ▶ Moses then intervened on her behalf, and prayed for his sister, verse 13, see James 5:16 (God didn't answer Aaron's request)
- ▶ The Lord then answered Moses' prayer
- ▶ God ordered her to then be "*quarantined*" for seven days then allowed back in the camp, thus delaying their journey to the promised land for one week
- ▶ Did you know that sin can block or delay our blessings too? Isaiah 59:1-2

Remember These Words

*Sin Can Make You Go
Farther Than You
Intended To Go*

*Stay Longer Than You
Intended To Stay*

*And Pay More Than You
Intended To Pay!*

The Plan Of Salvation!

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Matthew 10:32

Be Baptized

Mark 16:15-16