

Angry at Aaron and Miriam for being jealous of Moses

Bible passage

Numbers 12 *Miriam and Aaron are jealous of Moses*

1 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. (NIV)

Devotion

We all long for healthy, long-term relationships. However, in our search to form relationships and maintain them, we often fail because of a certain “cancer” that we do not always take into account. What could this cancer be? Jealousy is the cancer in relationships.

Jealousy causes people to be restless—to feel dissatisfied with their own lives and use criticism to trample on those around them. Many people like to hear that others have also failed, because this puts them all in the same boat. Jealousy wishes no one joy.

Aaron and his sister, Miriam, were very jealous of their brother, Moses. The reason for their jealousy was Moses' special position in Israel. He did not find their criticism threatening. When Miriam later contracted leprosy because of her criticism, Moses did not take delight in it. On the contrary, he prayed for his sister's recovery. Moses learned to use good to conquer evil. He left behind a good testimonial: “Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth” (Num 12:3).

Prayer

Lord, help me not to be jealous but to be humble instead.

Today's Quote

To cure jealousy is to see it for what it is, a dissatisfaction with self.

—Joan Didion

humble