

# Life Lessons from Miriam

## Various Scriptures

*“Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took the timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances. And Miriam answered them: Sing to the Lord, for He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea!” -Exodus 15:20-21*

Now that we have closely examined the wives and one daughter of the patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac and Jacob), we will transition our study to the nation of Israel. As we embark upon this journey let us remember to ask ourselves, what would the Lord have me to \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ as a result of this example?

### Did you know?

\* 4 Possible meanings of Miriam: “bitter”, “God’s gift”, “beloved” or”  
\_\_\_\_\_”

\* Miriam was the sister of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ **Exodus 6:20; Exodus 15:20; 1 Chronicles 6:1-3**

\* Miriam was a leader, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

\*Miriam’s story is told in Exodus 2; 15 and Numbers 12; 20

Like all of us, Miriam possessed both good and bad examples. The truth of the matter is none of us are \_\_\_\_\_. In considering this reality, watch for God’s grace, patience, forgiveness and discipline in Miriam’s story.

### Protective Sister Exodus 2:1-10

The Israelites were living under harsh conditions of slavery and oppression imposed by the Egyptians. As the Israelites grew, the Egyptians became alarmed and forced them to work harder without \_\_\_\_\_. Conditions became so bad Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, gave two separate orders to kill all the Hebrew boys who were born. (Exodus 1)

It was during this time that Moses was born. The Bible tells us His mother saw how \_\_\_\_\_ he was and hid him for \_\_\_\_\_ months. Once she could no longer hide him she placed him in a basket on the banks of the Nile river.

Verse 4 says, the baby's sister (Miriam) then stood at a distance, watching to see what would happen to him. As the Lord would have it, Pharaoh's daughter found the baby and had compassion on him. Then verse 7 tells us, the baby's sister (Miriam) approached the princess saying, "Should I go and find one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?" The princess agrees and the girl (Miriam) calls her mother to meet the princess. After meeting her, the princess asks the mother to nurse the child and even offers to \_\_\_\_\_ her for her services!

**Can you identify some characteristics that support Miriam's protective nature?**

---

---

---

\_\_\_\_\_ verse 4; \_\_\_\_\_ verse 7; \_\_\_\_\_ verse 7

**What do you think was the greatest impact of Miriam's actions at this time?**

---

---

---

### **Powerful Leader Exodus 15:20-21**

The next time we see Miriam is after the Israelites escape from Egypt and Pharaoh and his mighty army is defeated in the Red sea. In Exodus 15:1-19 we read how Moses and the people of Israel sang before the Lord, but when we get to verse 20 we see Miriam is identified as a \_\_\_\_\_ who took the tambourine and led all the women as they played their tambourines and danced.

Did you know that prophecy and music were often closely related in the Bible?

**Supporting scriptures:** 1 Samuel 10:5; 1 Chronicles 25:1; Deuteronomy 13

Notice the lyrics of her song in verse 21:

"Sing to the Lord, for He has triumphed gloriously;

He has hurled both horse and rider into the sea."

Remember someone with the gift of prophecy does not mean you are supposed to have visions of the \_\_\_\_\_. Instead it means you are a “forth-teller”, “telling” or “speaking forth” the mind of God. This can be done through boldly preaching, speaking, and teaching God’s Word. In light of the text God had told them what He was going to do and He did it.(Exodus 14:2-4) Miriam is not only boldly speaking reminding the people of what God said He would do, but she is encouraging them to sing and declare it as well for themselves.

**Do you believe prophecy is important today? Why or why not?**

---

---

---

**Provoking Insurgent     Numbers 12:1-15**

It has been said, “complaining will attract more things to complain about.” By now in the history of Israel God was preparing them to enter the promised land. They had taken a census, organized the camp, assigned duties, specified offerings, and established laws. The presence of God was with them, leading them through the wilderness but as soon as they left Egypt the people started complaining.

They complained ...

- \* When they ran out of food but the Lord provided manna and quail Exodus 16:2-4
- \* When they ran out of water but the Lord provided from a rock Exodus 17:2-6
- \* \_\_\_\_\_ Numbers 11:1 and the Lords anger blazed against them.
- \* Good ole days and \_\_\_\_\_ in Egypt Numbers 11:4-5 and the Lord sent them quail then while they were gorging themselves with meat the Lord struck them with a plague.

Then in Numbers 12:1 we read Miriam and Aaron criticize Moses because he had married a Cushite woman.

**What happened to the protective sister and powerful leader?    What do you think led her to conspire against her brother?**

---

---

---

While the text does not outright tell us we do see some questions posed in verse 2; Has the Lord spoken only through Moses? Hasn't He spoken to us too? In other words, was it really about him marrying a Cushite women or was she more upset that he was the final decision maker?

Instead of being thankful for where God placed her and using the influence she was given, she wanted \_\_\_\_\_ power and \_\_\_\_\_ authority. Unfortunately when that happens we lose our influence and open ourselves up to judgement.

**Can you see this happening in the church today? What are some actions we can take to prevent this from occurring?**

---

---

---

The motives behind the criticism are often more important to deal with than the criticism itself.

**Notice what happens after Miriam questions Moses' leadership:**

- \*God hears her complaints verse 2
- \*God confronts her sin verses 4-9
- \*God chastens her for her actions verse 10

After Aaron cries out to Moses and Moses prays to God on Miriam's behalf God has mercy and commands that she be kept outside the camp for \_\_\_\_\_ days. Although she was a caring sister and inspirational leader, by the time we get to Numbers 20:1 we read that Miriam died and was unable to enter the promised land.

In this life we are going to make many mistakes, but the good news is Jesus paid for all of them by dying for our sin and resurrecting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day. When we put our trust in Him, repent of our ways and honor the Lord, He blesses and welcomes us into His presence in paradise for eternity.

As you reflect on this study, identify one thing you have learned and are willing to share with someone else?

---

---

***The capacity to learn is a gift;***

***The ability to learn is a skill;***

***The willingness to learn is a choice. -Brian Herbert***