

Cover to Cover: Miriam and Aaron

 *Numbers 12*

Watch: <https://www.bible.com/en-GB/videos/3021-numbers-the-bible-project>

Context: Numbers carries on the narrative of the wider Exodus/Mt. Sinai story into the Wilderness. It begins with the census (from which the book gets its name), and then outlines how the camp is to be organized (here the holy presence of God is to be central to the people), then further purity laws are given for the organization of the camp and finally the Israelites set out on their journey because the cloud of God had lifted. However, the rest of Numbers will show it was not a pleasant journey but one filled with complaining and rebellion. The first such incidence occurred in ch.11. Today we read of the second, involving none other than Miriam and Aaron, Moses own relations.

*Questions from this past Lord’s Day’s message on the Nazarite Vow.*

1. What did it mean to be a Nazarite/ what was the Nazarite vow?
2. How was Jesus a Nazarene? (Mt 2:23)
3. What does it mean to be a follower of the Nazarene today?
4. *Other thoughts from the sermon…*

**Read:** Num 12

*Questions*

1. Have you ever had someone close to you complain or do something to undermine you? How did that feel? What was the outcome?
2. What was Aaron and Miriam’s initial complaint? (v. 1)
3. What was this actually a pretext for ? (v.2)
	1. *This Cushite, or Ethiopian, woman was presumably Moses 2nd wife (Ex 2:16). Nothing else is known of her.*
4. What spirit does this show and why is this so troubling?
5. (v. 3) How does Moses character make their complaint all the more troubling? Does Moses try to vindicate himself?
	1. *Meek does not mean weak. Rather it is God’s strength exercised under God’s control.*
	2. What did Jesus say about meekness? (Mt 5:5)
6. *(vv. 4–6) The Lord summoned the three of them before Him at the Tabernacle. The Lord asked them a question about prophets to which they would all respond “yes”! This sets up the next statement.*
7. How was Moses relationship with the LORD different from that of a prophet? (v. 7–8a)
8. (v. 8b) In light of this, how ought Aaron and Miriam to have treated Moses? Who then was their treatment actually against? What was the LORD’s reaction? (v. 9)
9. Every sin has its consequence. What judgement befell Miriam? Why do you think Aaron was spared? (v.10)
10. What did Aaron immediately ask of Moses? What did Moses then do and ask before the LORD? (v. 11–13)
11. What do you think of the LORD’s response? (v. 14) What is meant by the spitting reference?
12. What dos this story teach us of justice and mercy?
13. What attitude are we to have toward leaders in the Church? (Heb 13:17) How ought this spirit be extended to all Christians and people?
14. What ought we to do if we have a legitimate complaint or concern about a leader in the Church (1 Ti 5:19)?
15. What ought we to do if we have a complaint about someone in the Church (Mt 18: 15–17)? How can this wisdom be applied outside of the Church?
16. Read the following verses on the subject of complaining: Phil 2:14; Ja 5:9; 1 Pet 4:9; 1 Cor 10:10; Eph 4:29.
17. If someone persists in complaining or is a chronic complainer, what is that a sign of? (see Eph 4:20–1)
18. What effect does complaining have in the Church?
19. What should we do if someone complains to us or we catch someone complaining?