

**Watchman**  
**Part 8**  
**(The Ministry of the Elder Brother and Sister)**

The Scripture will keep teaching us and direct us and show us our responsibilities to God and toward one another. We will learn in this message about another example of the ministry of the watchman inspired from the example of Miriam and what she did and contributed to the life of her brother Moses. The set up of Moses' family is as the following: ***"the name of Amram's wife was Jochebed, a descendant of Levi, who was born to the Levites in Egypt. To Amram she bore Aaron, Moses and their sister Miriam."*** (Numbers 26:59)

Now let us read the events of how Moses was saved from death and how Miriam did her part as an elder sister to save her brother:

***"1 Now a man of the house of Levi married a Levite woman, 2 and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. 3 But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. 4 His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him. 5 Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the river bank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her slave girl to get it. 6 She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said. 7 Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?" 8 "Yes, go," she answered. And the girl went and got the baby's mother. 9 Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So the woman took the baby and nursed him. 10 When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water."*** (Exodus 2:1-10)

When the parents of Moses were not able to hide him anymore, they prepared a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. Now the parents cannot do anymore for the child, but Miriam continued to do her part as a responsible watchman who cared and watched for her brother Moses: ***"His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him."*** (Exodus 2:4)

**1- She stood at a distance:** She took her stand to be a responsible person toward her ministry. Our elder children should be taught that they are called to care for their younger brothers and sisters. We are called to teach our disciples that they are called to be responsible with us to care for the new coming believers.

**2- To see what would happen to him:** Miriam was a faithful watchman. She carried the pain and the responsibility with her parents to care and to protect her younger brother Moses. Our elder children should take the pain and the responsibility with us to care for their younger brothers and sisters. Our disciples should share the pain and the responsible with us to care for the new coming believers. Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. He is our elder brother who gave his life and cared for us. In the same way we care for our children and our new disciples. And we teach our elder children and disciples to care for their younger brothers and sisters and the new comer believers. When the

child Moses picked up and reached the hand of Pharaoh Daughter ***"Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?"*** (Exodus 2:7)

**3- She fear the Lord:** The fear of God in the life Miriam was manifested in her responsible stand with God, knowing that Moses would be a faithful servant and effective instrument in God's hand to bring His people out of darkness. She acted very wisely, shrewdly and on time and spoke with tactful words with the right person concerned to save her brother. She was willing to go and was willing to bring what her younger brother needs. We ought to train our elder children and disciples how to care for their younger brethren and the new believers. Miriam was willing to go and bring the baby's mother. In the same way we ought to be ready to go in response to Jesus command; to go and make disciples of all nations, and we need to train our children to go and make disciples of their younger brothers by praying for them, encouraging them to read the bible and teach them with us God's word and ways.

**4- Miriam played a key rule to link between Moses and the Parents:** Miriam received the favour from God when Pharaoh Daughter approved her request. So as Pharaoh Daughter approved her requests the girl went and got the baby's mother.

**5- Miriam brought joy to her mother when called her mother to nurse Moses once again:** Our children and disciples, we should train them so they can be source of joy to us by being effective link between us and our younger children and the new believers in the church.

**6- She was trained by her parents:** Miriam acted in wisdom and fear of God and for sure her actions were guided with the help of The Holy Spirit. But we should not forget that Miriam was taught the ways of God from her parents who both of them were Levites.

**7- She had true love and faithfulness:** Miriam had the true love of God and she was faithful servant and minister of God. She carried the fruit of the Holy Spirit as she cared for her younger brother. Sure she was praying for Moses and hoping with faith that God would protect and save him.

**8- Miriam carried also more talents and gifts of the Holy Spirit to serve God:**

**A- Miriam composed songs with Moses:** Miriam rejoiced as she saw the fruit of her labor, Moses, whom she cared, and who God used to bring deliverance for the Israelites, the church, and judgment on the enemy: ***"21 Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted. The horse and its rider he has hurled into the sea."*** (Exodus 15:21) Before we teach our children and our new disciples to sing to God we need to train them to love and care for their younger brothers, sisters and for the new believers, and lead them to Christ.

**B- Miriam led the people in worship and dancing to the Lord with songs and tambourine dance:** ***"Then Miriam the prophetess, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women followed her, with tambourines and dancing."*** (Exodus 15:20) Before we train our children and disciples to lead worship or dance for the Lord we need to be sure that they have love to care for their younger brothers and sisters and for the new believers.

**C- Miriam was a Prophet:** ***"Then Miriam the prophetess, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women followed her, with tambourines and dancing."*** (Exodus 15:20) The prophet is the one who tell and declare the will of God to the people around Him.

Miriam did that by showing her care and love and concern for her brother Moses. Our children and new disciples we ought to train them to declare the word of God and the will of God to others by doing their responsibilities and show love and care for their younger brothers and sisters and for the new coming believers into the Kingdom of God.

Miriam was a valuable servant of God and had key role to act to bring up not only Moses from death but finally as a consequence of that act, the whole Israelites out from the bondage in Egypt. Therefore our training to our children and new disciples in this aspect is much needed to secure smooth, fruitful and promising ministry.

In **Numbers 12** there was an occasion that had happened and showed ill behavior of Miriam and Aaron toward their younger brother Moses. Let us read that below:

*"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. 3 (Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.) 4 At once the LORD said to Moses, Aaron and Miriam, "Come out to the Tent of Meeting, all three of you." So the three of them came out. 5 Then the LORD came down in a pillar of cloud; he stood at the entrance to the Tent and summoned Aaron and Miriam. When both of them stepped forward, 6 he said, "Listen to my words: "When a prophet of the LORD is among you, I reveal myself to him in visions, I speak to him in dreams. 7 But this is not true of my servant Moses; he is faithful in all my house. 8 With him I speak face to face, clearly and not in riddles; he sees the form of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?" 9 The anger of the LORD burned against them, and he left them. 10 When the cloud lifted from above the Tent, there stood Miriam--leprous, like snow. Aaron turned toward her and saw that she had leprosy; 11 and he said to Moses, "Please, my lord, do not hold against us the sin we have so foolishly committed. 12 Do not let her be like a stillborn infant coming from its mother's womb with its flesh half eaten away." 13 So Moses cried out to the LORD, "O God, please heal her!" 14 The LORD replied to Moses, "If her father had spit in her face, would she not have been in disgrace for seven days? Confine her outside the camp for seven days; after that she can be brought back." 15 So Miriam was confined outside the camp for seven days, and the people did not move on till she was brought back. 16 After that, the people left Hazeroth and encamped in the Desert of Paran." (Numbers 12:1-16)*

Here Miriam and Aaron spoke arrogantly out of pride and jealousy toward their younger brother, Moses. That remind us of the same of what happened with Cain and Abel, the children of Adam and Eve, in **Genesis 4:1-10** and how Cain, because of jealousy toward his brother, acted in anger and irresponsibly and killed his brother Abel. That same jealousy and anger we can noticed and read in **Luke 15:25-30** when the elder son was angry with his father because he accepted his younger brother when he came in repentance.

These events should not be there in our families and inside the church. Our elder children and disciples we need to discipline them and train them to be caring and loving and acting responsibly toward the younger ones. Miriam ill behavior was judged and God disciplined her when he afflicted her with leprosy. Also God told to Moses the following about her, *"If her father had spit in her face, would she not have been in disgrace for seven days?" (Numbers 12:14)* So

here the Lord's word teaches us to discipline our elder children and disciples if they show ill behaviours and transgress against their younger brethren.

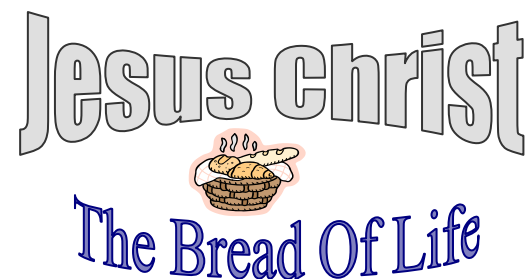
The Israelites were delayed seven days waiting for Miriam to recover and that was important and necessary for the whole Israelites and even teaching to us today. We need to give time and be patient to discipline our children and disciples till they get rid of such bad attitudes of anger and jealousy toward the younger ones. God recommended to the Israelites and to us today the incident that he judged the ill behaviour of Miriam toward Moses when he said, ***"Remember what the Lord your God did to Miriam along the way after you came out of Egypt." (Deuteronomy 24:9)***

The Scripture treat Miriam and her ministry in the same importance as treating Moses and Aaron and their ministries. Moses and Aaron place and time of death mentioned in the bible, as well as Miriam's death time and place mention, ***"In the first month the whole Israelite community arrived at the Desert of Zin, and they stayed at Kadesh. There Miriam died and was buried." (Numbers 20:1)***

Her ministry was so crucial and the scripture considered her with Moses and Aaron in leading the people of God out from the bondage in Egypt, as God said to the Israelites, ***"I brought you up out of Egypt and redeemed you from the land of slavery. I sent Moses to lead you, also Aaron and Miriam." (Micah 6:4)***

***My dear and beloved:*** The future of the church and ministry bound with the outcome of the ministry of the elder brothers or sisters and the elder disciples toward the younger one. I pray for you that your eyes will be open and realize all these truth and put them into practice and work with God in raising up new generation who are caring and loving for others as you agree to pray

***My Prayer:*** Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the Cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord I commit myself to abide with your word in doing your will in raising up a responsible new generation and discipline them and train them to care for their younger ones and the new believers in Christ. Lord gives me the strength and the good health and the perseverance to achieve that. Lord as I will obey you then fulfil your good promise to me and my descendents, this all I ask and pray in Jesus name Amen.



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Issue 15

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