

Watchman Part 7

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: ***"59 And the name of Amram's wife was Jochebed, the daughter of Levi, whom her mother bare to Levi in Egypt: and she bare unto Amram Aaron and Moses, and Miriam their sister."*** (Numbers 26:59 KJV)

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 And there went a man of the house of Levi, and took to wife a daughter of Levi. 2 And the woman conceived, and bare a son: and when she saw him that he was a goodly child, she hid him three months. 3 And when she could not longer hide him, she took for him an ark of bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with pitch, and put the child therein; and she laid it in the flags by the river's brink. 4 And his sister stood afar off, to wit what would be done to him. 5 And the daughter of Pharaoh came down to wash herself at the river; and her maidens walked along by the river's side; and when she saw the ark among the flags, she sent her maid to fetch it. 6 And when she had opened it, she saw the child: and, behold, the babe wept. And she had compassion on him, and said, This is one of the Hebrews' children. 7 Then said his sister to Pharaoh's daughter, Shall I go and call to thee a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for thee? 8 And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, Go. And the maid went and called the child's mother. 9 And Pharaoh's daughter said unto her, Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give thee thy wages. And the women took the child, and nursed it. 10 And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses: and she said, Because I drew him out of the water." (Exodus 2:1-10 KJV)

When the mother of Moses was not able to hide him anymore, she prepared an ark of bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with 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: ***"4 And his sister stood afar off, to wit what would be done to him."*** (Exodus 2:4 KJV)

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**

responsibility 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 coming believers.** When the child Moses picked up and reached the hand of Pharaoh's daughter, ***"7 Then said his sister to Pharaoh's daughter, Shall I go and call to thee a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for thee?"*** (Exodus 2:7 KJV)

3. She feared the Lord: The fear of God in the life of 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 needed. **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 role to link between Moses and the Parents: Miriam received the favor from God when Pharaoh's daughter approved her request. So as Pharaoh's daughter approved her request the girl went and got the baby's mother. **In the same way as we are willing to help others, especially our younger brothers and sisters and save them from their troubles, God shall give us favor and grant us success in our mission to help our younger brothers.**

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 a source of joy to us by being effective link between us and our younger children and the new believers in the church.**

6. Miriam sure 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. **Therefore we continue to train our elder children and disciples how to care for others and especially our younger children, the new believers and the new disciples.**

7. Miriam had true love and faithfulness: She 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 him and save him. **We continue to cultivate the true love in our hearts and manifest in our lives, and teach and train our children and disciples to do the same, to be people of care and actions, people of prayer and support to those who are in troubles and to those who are in need.**

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

A. Miriam sang the song of Moses: Miriam rejoiced as she saw the fruit of her labor, Moses, whom she cared, and whom God used to bring deliverance for the Israelites, the church, and judgment on the enemy: *“21 And Miriam answered them, Sing ye to the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.”* (Exodus 15:21 KJV) **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: *“20 And Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances.”* (Exodus 15:20 KJV) **Again 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 Prophetess: *“20 And Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances.”* (Exodus 15:20 KJV) 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:

“1 And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman. 2 And they said, Hath the LORD indeed spoken only by Moses? hath he not spoken also by us? And the LORD heard it. 3 (Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.) 4 And the LORD spake suddenly unto Moses, and unto Aaron, and unto Miriam, Come out ye three unto the tabernacle of the congregation. And they three came out. 5 And the LORD came down in the pillar of the cloud, and stood in the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam: and they both came forth. 6 And he said, Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, I the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream. 7 My servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all mine house. 8 With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the LORD shall he behold: wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses? 9 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against them; and he departed. 10 And the cloud departed from off the tabernacle; and, behold, Miriam

became leprous, white as snow: and Aaron looked upon Miriam, and, behold, she was leprous. 11 And Aaron said unto Moses, Alas, my lord, I beseech thee, lay not the sin upon us, wherein we have done foolishly, and wherein we have sinned. 12 Let her not be as one dead, of whom the flesh is half consumed when he cometh out of his mother's womb. 13 And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, Heal her now, O God, I beseech thee. 14 And the LORD said unto Moses, If her father had but spit in her face, should she not be ashamed seven days? let her be shut out from the camp seven days, and after that let her be received in again. 15 And Miriam was shut out from the camp seven days: and the people journeyed not till Miriam was brought in again. 16 And afterward the people removed from Hazeroth, and pitched in the wilderness of Paran.” (Numbers 12:1-16 KJV)

Here Miriam and Aaron spoke arrogantly out of pride, selfishness 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 And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD. 2 And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. 3 And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. 4 And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: 5 But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. 6 And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? 7 If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him. 8 And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him. 9 And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper? 10 And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.”* (Genesis 4:1-10 KJV) As we read that Cain because of jealousy and selfishness toward his brother, acted in anger and irresponsibly and killed his brother Abel. That same jealousy, selfishness and anger we can noticed and read in *Luke 15*, when the elder son was angry with his father because he accepted his younger brother when he came in repentance. *“25 Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard musick and dancing. 26 And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant. 27 And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound. 28 And he was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and intreated him. 29 And he answering said to his father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends: 30 But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf.”* (Luke 15:25-30 KJV)

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 in *Numbers 12* 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 but spit in her face, should she not be ashamed seven days?”* (Numbers 12:14 KJV) **So here the Lord's Word teaches us to discipline our**

elder children and disciples if they show ill behaviors 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, selfishness and jealousy toward the younger ones.** God recommended to the Israelites and to us today the incident that he judged the ill behavior of Miriam toward Moses when he said, ***“8 Take heed in the plague of leprosy, that thou observe diligently, and do according to all that the priests the Levites shall teach you: as I commanded them, so ye shall observe to do. 9 Remember what the LORD thy God did unto Miriam by the way, after that ye were come forth out of Egypt.” (Deuteronomy 24:8-9 KJV)*** **Anger, selfishness, jealousy and ill treatment for the younger brothers and the new disciples is leprosy and needed to be dealt with in the New Testament church.**

The Scripture treat Miriam and her ministry in the same importance as treating Moses and Aaron and their ministries. Moses and Aaron the place and the time of their death mentioned in the Bible, as well as Miriam's death time and place mentioned, ***“1 Then came the children of Israel, even the whole congregation, into the desert of Zin in the first month: and the people abode in Kadesh; and Miriam died there, and was buried there.” (Numbers 20:1 KJV)***

Miriam's 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, ***“4 For I brought thee up out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed thee out of the house of servants; and I sent before thee Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.” (Micah 6:4 KJV)***

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 ones.** I pray for you that your eyes will be opened and realize all these truth and put them into practice and work with God in raising new generation who are caring and loving for others.

Let us 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 thank you for your Word that teaches my responsibility toward the younger brothers and the younger believers. Lord thank you for all the teaching, the corrections, the rebukes and the admonishments that we received from you.*

Confess your sins and renounce them. Renounce the sin of your lack of care and being responsible toward others especially your younger brothers and the new believers in Christ. Confess and renounce that you are not willing to be a watchman for your younger siblings and for the new disciples. Repent and renounce your jealousy, anger, selfishness, fight and quarrel with your younger siblings and the new disciples. Repent of your non willingness to suffer for Christ and to serve Him. Lord forgive me, I repent of the following sins _____.

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 fulfill your good promise to me and my descendents, this all I ask and pray in Jesus name Amen.

Lord thank you for my brothers and sisters who repented of their sins and who committed their lives to follow your Word and the instruction we received in this message. Lord use their lives to bring the fruit that you desire to see in the life of your church. Lord bless them, protect them and give them the strength to care and do their watchman ministry toward their younger brothers and sisters, and to the new disciples. Lord provide all their needs so they can continue to go and do your will. Lord reward them and make their lives good testimonies to others to serve you.

Lord bless us as a church, and help us to continue to train our elder children in our families to care and watch for their younger siblings and to continue to care and train our elders and disciples to watch for the new believers and the new disciples. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need to go and serve you; to evangelize, making disciples, training workers and to plant more Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us, and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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