

# POWER OBSESSION



When Moses married a black woman it was too much for his siblings, Miriam and Aaron.

Who does Moses think he is?

Is he the only one with power in Israel?

Maybe it's time we assert our power and put Moses in his place!

***Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Cushite woman whom he had married, for he had married a Cushite woman; and they said, "Has the LORD indeed spoken only through Moses? Has he not spoken through us also?" And the LORD heard it.***

While Moses was the undisputed leader of the vast Israelite camp in the wilderness, his leadership style was unique.

Moses ruled Israel, not from a position of power...

**but from a position of meekness.**

Through those 40 years as a shepherd, stripped of all his authority as an Egyptian Prince...

**Moses had learned humility.**



***Now the man Moses was very meek, more than all men that were on the face of the earth.***

***And suddenly the LORD said to Moses and to Aaron and Miriam, "Come out, you three, to the tent of meeting." And the three of them came out. And the LORD came down in a pillar of cloud, and stood at the door of the tent, and called Aaron and Miriam; and they both came forward. And he said, "Hear my words: If there is a prophet among you, I the LORD make myself known to him in a vision, I speak with him in a dream.***

***Not so with my servant Moses; he is entrusted with all my house. With him I speak mouth to mouth, clearly, and not in dark speech; and he beholds the form of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?"***

***And the anger of the LORD was kindled against them, and he departed.***

Numbers 12:3-9

From the day Moses met the Lord at the Burning Bush until the day of his death Moses was never power-obsessed.

**The power of God moved through Moses' meekness.**

**Moses led Israel, not as a prince, but as a servant.**

Miriam and Aaron simply didn't "get it".

***"Has the LORD indeed spoken only through Moses? Has he not spoken through us also?"***

Aaron was the one who made the golden calf while Moses was up on the mountain receiving the Law. And Miriam considered herself royalty. Did she not watch over Moses when he was a baby in a basket?

It was time for Aaron and Miriam to learn a lesson.

***And when the cloud removed from over the tent, behold, Miriam was leprous, as white as snow. And Aaron turned towards Miriam, and behold, she was leprous. And Aaron said to Moses, "Oh, my lord, do not punish us because we have done foolishly and have sinned. Let her not be as one dead, of whom the flesh is half consumed when he comes out of his mother's womb." And Moses cried to the LORD, "Heal her, O God, I beseech thee."***

***But the LORD said to Moses, "If her father had but spit in her face, should she not be shamed seven days? Let her be shut up outside the camp seven days, and after that she may be brought in again." So Miriam was shut up outside the camp seven days; and the people did not set out on the march till Miriam was brought in again.***

Numbers 12:10-15



Aaron and Miriam have lots of company in Christendom these days.

There are those who still object to Moses marrying that black woman.

And there are multitudes who object to Moses' leadership style.

**Moses was too meek.**

**Where was his charisma?**

Christendom perceives power the way Aaron and Miriam did.

**Christendom is power-obsessed.**

**Christendom is money-obsessed.**

But the kingdom of God operates the way Moses did.

The way Jesus does.

***“Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and lowly in heart...”***

*Matthew 11*

Until we repent of our power-obsession and get under the yoke with the Master, we will continue stumbling in the wilderness with Aaron and Miriam.

***“But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brethren. And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. Neither be called masters, for you have one master, the Christ.***

***He who is greatest among you shall be your servant; whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.”***

*Matthew 23*



*Prayer: Lord Jesus, forgive us for our obsession with power and control. Help us to desire and appreciate the meekness, the humility that you so love. Help us to choose servanthood, not for accolades or brownie points, but because you are meek and lowly in heart...and we want to be with you, carrying your yoke. You have lessons for us that we cannot learn, we cannot live, we cannot understand... if we are power obsessed. Lord, we no longer want our pride, our arrogance, and our superiority to force us to continue to stumble in the wilderness, covered in shame outside your camp. Lord, we want to be with you, where you dwell. Help us, help us to lovingly embrace the gift of humility you offer us and let go of our power obsessions. Amen.*

*Message: Richard E. Bieber August 2021  
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