

Repercussions

Description

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Numbers 12:10-16

So Miriam was shut up outside the camp for seven days, and the people did not move on until Miriam was received again.

The Bible has many examples of the sin of a single person affecting the whole of the community. Paul makes it clear in numerous epistles that we are part of a body, and suffering by one results in suffering for all, and glorification for one results in glory for all.

The sin is especially consequential when it comes from a position of leadership. Miriam was the one who faced the consequences of becoming leprous, yet the entire nation was affected. They could not move to the next place of God's guidance and leading. Think of it! An entire nation was left stuck because one person arrogantly tried to elevate herself as leader when God had other plans. The adage is true: no one is an island.

God provides hope, though. Despite the delay, the people of God once again moved forward to the Promise Land. Miriam herself was restored before God and the people.

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