

When Life Is a Lot

SESSION 2

SETTLE: FAITH ON THE JOURNEY (NUMBERS 12:1–15)

TRISH DONOHUE | JANUARY 13, 2024

“A tranquil heart gives life to the flesh, but envy makes the bones rot.” (Proverbs 14:30)

“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?” (Numbers 12:1–2)

“We tend to envy “people with whom we most closely identify. Second, we tend to envy in them the areas we value most.” –Jerry Bridges in Respectable Sins

We can all identify with Miriam and her desire for what someone else has.

- Why can't my kids be as polite as hers?
- Why does she get to be happily married and I don't?
- Why can't my skin or metabolism or hair look like hers?
- Why am I stuck in this little apartment and she gets that big house?
- Why does he get to go to the office and I'm home with the kids again?
- Why were they asked to be small group leaders and not us?
- Why do her kids learn easily and mine have disabilities?
- Why did she get promoted at work and not me?

✍️ A focus on self and what we don't have yields an unsettled heart that brings ruin.

“The ultimate expression of envy came in the garden of Eden. Adam and Eve were literally in paradise, but envy came along and said, ‘Yeah, you may be in paradise, but you're not God.’ There is no heaven that envy cannot make into a hell.”
–Gavin Ortlund in Humility: The Joy of Self-Forgetfulness