CHAPTER - 11

MIRIAM (Mary- bitterness)

Portion of read: Ex. 2: 4-8; 15: 20;21;Num.12:1-15;20:1

Memory Verse : 1 Pet.8:8-9

Central verse : Honour all people, love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king. 1Pet 2:17

Objective *:* God has a mighty work to do in and through each of us. Though we lack the strengh for it, God will give abundant help in the time of need. We should be always thankful to God and never murmur. To understand the good and bad use it for our correction.

Teaching aids*:* A map showing the journey of Israel from Egypt to Cannan, a chart of tabernacle, a comparative chart of Miriam's positive points and negative point.

Introduction *:* Jacob and his sons went to Egypt and settled in Goshen. By 200 years, they became a large population in Egypt.The new king started to suppress them. But the Israelites cried out to God and He chose the family of Amram and Jochebod for the liberation of Israel. They had tree children- Miriam, Aaron and Moses. Miriam was the Eldest. Aaron was 3 years older than Moses(Exo.7:7). Moses was the youngest. Later Moses was called by God to be the leader of Israel. Aaron and Miriam helped Moses in his mission. This family was chosen by God for the salvation of Israel(Mic.6:4)

CHARACTERISTICS:

1. Miriam was full time of Moses birth, there was a decree of the king to kill all newborn male children of Israel. But his parents hid for three months. After that, fearing the king, they released him in the Nile river in an ark of bulrushes. When the ark was floating

on water. She was about 10-12 years older than Moses. As she was watching, she saw the daughter of Pharaoh taking the child from the water. She was very alert and told the princess that she would bring a woman to take care of the child.Thus, because of the timely intervention of Miriam, Jochebod got the chance of bringing up her own son Moses under the protection of the king. Thus Miriam played a magor role in shaping the future of Moses, the leader of Israel.

2. Miriam was a women's leader and prophetess who rejoiced in the victory given by God (Exo.15:20-21)

Miriam is addressed as a prophetes for the first time in Exo.15:20. When the soldiers of Pharaoh were pursuing Miriam might have emboldened the minds of Israelites.She might have prayed to God and got God's vision about forth coming victory. She might have propheised it to the people and strengthened the minds of the women of Israel. When God destroyed the enimies and gave the actual victory, Miriam and the women took timbrel in their hands and danced, praising God. Miriam was about 90 years old then. Miriam was a good leader of the women of Israel. This makes clear that God will use women also who have a burning desire to serve Him.

3. Miriam was punished (Num.12-15)

Though Miriam had many good qualities, she nurtured jealousy and selfishness. This made her subject to God's anger. The Ethiopian wife of Moses, who was from Midian, was black in colour and less beautiful than Miriam. Since Moses loved her more than Miriam and Aaron, they murmured against him. God called them to the labernacle and gave the punishment. Miriam became a leper and her skin became white as snow. Aaron apologized to Moses and Moses paryed for his sister, Miriam also asked forgiveness to God and Moses. Nevertheless, she had to stay out of the camp for 7 days. After that she was healed and purified and accepted into the camp.

Even though we have many good fruits in our life, a simple sin can bring curse upon us. It will not only affect us, but also our

family and society. But if we are completely faithful, we will be a blessing for our surroundings.

MIRIAM'S DEATH (Num.20:1)

Miriam died during the journey at Kadesh which is the boundary of Cannan. She lived for about 130 years. She was buried at Kadesh.

Questions:

1. Who were the parents of Miriam?
2. Miriam was a clever girl. Prove.
3. Miriam was a leader. Prove.
4. Why was Miriam punished? What was the compensation made?
5. Draw a map and identify the places where Miriam went, starting from Egypt.