

# The Servant of The Lord

Numbers 12:6-8  
2 Timothy 2:24-26



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**FOCAL Read Responsively** Numbers 12:6-8 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?

**FOCAL 2** 2 Timothy 2:24-26 **And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,** {25} In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; {26} **And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.**

There have been many great men and women in the Bible, but none – outside of Jesus Christ – have been greater than Moses. Moses wasn't perfect. The children of Israel hounded him night and day, driving him to distraction with strange demands that no one should expect from a human. “Give us water”. “Give us bread”. “Give us food”. Israel pushed and prodded on this dear man until, one day, he lost his temper. When he did so he offended the Best Friend he ever had. He offended the Lord. Because of his offense the Lord refused to let Moses go into the Promised Land. Moses died on the border, on the land of Moab. Yet **God honored him even in death. He was not buried by the hand of any man, but God buried Moses' body.** The hands that formed Adam

of the dust of the ground and breathed into his body the breath of life reached down and dug Moses' grave. Moses died – the Jews say - “with a kiss from the mouth of God”. His death was gentle. The Bible says that **he was 120 years old when he died. His vision was still keen, and he still had all his strength. (Deuteronomy 34:7).** His death was peaceful – for the Lord told him before he died **“this Promised Land that you see – I, even God, will give it to your children (Deuteronomy 24:4). Your heritage will continue, dear friend, though you must come to Me.”** When Israel left Egypt the Bible says that they took Joseph's bones with them **(Exodus 13:19)**. This would not be the case with Moses. The Bible says that **“no person knows where Moses was buried” (Deuteronomy 34:6)** – no one, that is, but the Lord God Who loved him so. **It is appointed unto us all once to die, and after this the Judgment (Hebrews 9:27).** Death will come for all of us in due season. Unless the Lord comes to take us from this earth as He did with **Elijah and Enoch** we will all one day pass from this life and into the next. I'm sure that Moses wanted to live longer. I'm sure he wanted to see the Promised Land, to see Israel occupy the land for God our Savior. His father **Amram** lived to be 137 years old, and his grandfather **Kohath** lived to be 133 years old. Yet Moses failed His Friend at Kadesh. He took credit for giving water to Israel when it was God Who provided. The Lord told Moses:

**Numbers 20:12 ... because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.**

Moses' failure was that he did not *sanctify* or *set apart* the Lord, glorifying God at Kadesh. This brought the curse of God – however fleeting – to his life. We learn from Moses' death that God expects His servants to magnify His Name at all times. We learn from Moses' life that the life *yielded to Jesus* is the life most blessed.

**FOCAL** Numbers 12:6 **“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”.**

God told Israel, **“Any prophets that are among you – any person who thinks he or she should be a prophet – I'll make myself known to them – but only *through visions or dreams*. But Moses,**

**FOCAL** Numbers 12:8 **With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches;**

Moses will hear My Voice. I'll speak to Moses **mouth to mouth, clearly, not in dark or convoluted messages.** Moses is My Friend!”

How can one be a Friend to God? **Number 12:7** is the key that unlocks the answer.

**1. To Have God As Your Friend, Be A Friend To God**

**FOCAL** Numbers 12:7 **My servant Moses** is not so, who is faithful in all mine house.

Moses first of all *belonged to God, not to himself*. God

called Moses “**My servant<sup>1</sup> Moses**”. Moses gave Himself to Christ wholly, fully, without reservation. Moses was not first and foremost a **prophet**, nor was he first and foremost an **Israelite** nor even a **Levite**.

Moses *defined* his life by his relationship to the Lord.

The Scripture bears this out. In all of Scripture Moses is referred to as “**a prophet**” only *once*:

**Deuteronomy 34:10** And **there arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses**, whom the LORD knew face to face,

Yet Moses is *repeatedly* called **the servant of the Lord**. When God crushed the Egyptian Army at the Red Sea we read:

**Exodus 14:31** And Israel ... feared the LORD, and **believed the LORD, and his servant Moses**.

In our focal text today we see the Lord calls Moses “**My servant**”:

**FOCAL** Numbers 12:7-8 **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**?

1 H5650, עֶבֶד, 'ebed, *eh'-bed*, From H5647; a *servant*: - X bondage, bondman, [bond-] servant, (man-) servant.

When Moses died in Moah it was “**Moses the servant of the Lord died**” (**Deuteronomy 34:5**). When the Book of Joshua begins we read “**after the death of Moses the servant of the Lord**” (**Joshua 1:1**). When God wanted to spur Israel forward into the Promised Land He said “**remember the words which Moses My Servant told you**” (**Joshua 1:13**).

Moses was first and foremost a **servant to God**. This was the secret of his greatness.

We all serve something or someone. Many people serve the unholy trinity of the world, the flesh, or the devil – but these ways are ineffective at best – and usually lead to destruction.

The Bible warns us:

**1 John 2:15-17** Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. {16} For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. {17} And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.

“**If any person love the world, the love of the Father is not in him**”. The more we surrender our love and our passion to the temporal things of this world, the less the Lord can shed His love on us. Moses was a man who

gave his all for Jesus – and always placed himself last. In this chapter we see that:

**CONTEXT** Numbers 12:1 ... Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman.

**Miriam** – Moses' sister – instituted the attack against Moses. **Aaron** as was usually the case stood spineless, taking the easy path instead of the Way of righteousness. It was easier for him to go along with his sister – **just as he went along during the golden calf episode (Exodus 32:1-6, 21-24)**. Miriam was upset because Moses married an Ethiopian woman, and tried to start an uprising against this man of God. The Lord rebuked Miriam, sending the terrible disease of *leprosy* on her:

**CONTEXT** Numbers 12:9-10 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.

Suddenly the brother and the sister who found it so easy to mock Moses turned to him, crying out:

**CONTEXT** Numbers 12:11-12 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.**

What did Moses do? Did he sit back and say “Ah, but you deserved that! You brought it on yourselves – you made your bed, now lie in it!” No, not at all.

Like Jesus would have us all do Moses interceded for the guilty that they might be saved. He put love for others above himself, and love for God his Savior above all else.

The Bible tells us that there will be times when – not just the world – but even our families will mock us for our walk with the Lord. Jesus told His disciples:

**Luke 14:26-27** If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. {27} And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

God must be first. Jesus Christ must be honored and loved above all else. Moses was a friend to God, so God was a friend to Moses. As our focal text tells us:

**FOCAL 2** 2 Timothy 2:24-26 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men ...

When attacked, we are not to attack back. God must

defend us. Our focus must be to *be a friend to God*, and God will be a Friend to us. We are His disciples, if we have believed, and are to focus on learning more of Him and serving Him more and more each and every day.

The greatest gift that God can give to a person is a *holy conviction* that leads unto salvation. The second greatest gift the Lord can give His people is a *holy discontent* that stirs them up to loving service.

When God put leprosy on Miriam Moses immediately began to intercede:

**CONTEXT Numbers 12:13 And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, *Heal her now, O God, I beseech thee.***

God did heal Miriam – but only after *seven days*. Moses **did not strive – did not fight for his own honor – but always put others and his Lord first**. Oh that God would raise up more friends who would want to serve Him! Oh that God would make more Christians *hungry* to serve the Lord, to see the leprosy of sin taken away from our neighbors, our families, and our friends. Dearly Beloved, *Christianity will never take hold in America nor will it see a great revival of religion until we all surrender everything unto the Lord*. If struck, we must – as Jesus said, **turn the other cheek**. The temporary pain of the striking is nothing compared to the eternal damnation of the soul that leaves this life without Christ. We must trust that God will protect us no matter what. We must let Jesus work within us, no matter what.

## **2. The Servant of God Knows It Is Counterproductive To Stand Against God or In The Place of God**

**FOCAL Numbers 12:7 My servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all mine house.**

God said of Moses “**he is faithful in all MY HOUSE**”. God does not expect us to be perfect, but He does expect us to be faithful.

The house belongs to God. Everything belongs to God. Moses told Pharaoh:

**Exodus 9:29 ... know how that the earth is the LORD's.**

**Pharaoh stood against God and died for it.** Moses warned God's Israel:

**Deuteronomy 10:14-16 Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the LORD's thy God, the earth also, with all that therein is. {15} Only the LORD had a delight in thy fathers to love them, and he chose their seed after them, even you above all people, as it is this day. {16} Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiff necked.**

Israel was saved from Egypt because God chose to save them. The earth and all that is in it belongs to God. The heavens, and heaven of heavens, it all belongs to God. God is in control of all things:

**1 Samuel 2:6-10** The LORD killeth, and maketh alive: he bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up. {7} The LORD maketh poor, and maketh rich: he bringeth low, and lifteth up. {8} He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth are the LORD's, and he hath set the world upon them. {9} He will keep the feet of his saints, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness; for by strength shall no man prevail. {10} The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; out of heaven shall he thunder upon them: the LORD shall judge the ends of the earth; and he shall give strength unto his king, and exalt the horn of his anointed.

The best thing for any of us to do is to stand *with* God at all times.

To say, along with our Lord, “not my will but thine be done”. To proclaim, as John the Baptist did, “He must increase but I must decrease” (John 3:30).

**ILLUSTRATE WHITE CRAYON** When God increases – when His people submit and do the things that pleases the Lord – then God blesses. What will bring revival in this country and turn her back to the Lord is not hatred, fighting, or apathy. I was looking at a box of crayons the other day and noticed a *white crayon*. I told my wife, “what a useless thing! A white crayon – what good is that?” She told me “a white crayon has no value

until it is mixed with other colors. You can use the white crayon to lighten other colors – but by itself, it has no value”. The same is true of the Christian. We can stay together and talk about Jesus all we want in the confines of this Church building. That's easy. But if we keep our Christianity and our God to ourselves we will have absolutely no impact on our world. We must – each and every believer here – be like the white crayon. Take Jesus outside of the walls of this building. Tell others about Him, for **He must increase**. Jesus said:

**John 3:14-15** And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: {15} That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

Moses was faithful, knowing that the **House was God's**. He was faithful to God's House. Look at our focal text in Timothy.

**FOCAL 2** 2 Timothy 2:24-26 And the servant of the Lord must not strive<sup>2</sup>; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, {25} In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; {26} And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

2 G3164, μάχομαι, machomai, *makh'-om-ahēe*, Middle voice of an apparently primary verb; to *war*, that is, (figuratively) to *quarrel*, *dispute*: - fight, strive.

The servant of God must not **fight** – or have a **combative attitude toward others**.

He or she are to *be gentle*, kind, always lifting others toward Christ. Showing them the Way in Jesus. The servant of the Lord is **able to teach**. When Moses began to tell the Lord that he had too much work on him, the Lord told him to *set apart 70 elders* (the beginning of the Jewish Ruling Council or the Sanhedrim) to help him. The Lord said:

**Numbers 11:16-17 ... Gather unto me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom thou knowest to be the elders of the people, and officers over them; and bring them unto the tabernacle of the congregation, that they may stand there with thee. {17} And I will come down and talk with thee there: and I will take of the spirit which is upon thee, and will put it upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with thee, that thou bear it not thyself alone.**

When I was studying this text I noticed the highlighted section for the very first time:

**“I will come down and talk with thee there: and I will take of the spirit which is upon thee, and will put it upon them”**

God said **“I will take of your spirit Moses and put it upon them”**. The effective servant of God is called to be like Jesus in his demeanor – loving and kind – **apt to teach those who are standing against the work of**

**God**. What we as servants do in the name of Jesus – the spirit that we have on our own lives – will be reproduced in the lives of those around us. We are called – if we will be God's servants – to love God and one another *fervently*. To be willing to forgive offenses. To keep looking toward the greater goal of bringing souls into the Kingdom by faith in Christ Jesus.

We are servants together for Jesus. Pray with me, and study with me, as we go out and lead others to the foot of that Old Rugged Cross.

May God touch your hearts with His Word.