



Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School



Episode 038 - C'mon, You Call This a Fair Fight? Numbers 12, 16-17

Did you grow up with brothers and/or sisters? Was there any rivalry between you and them?

Miriam's resentment of her younger brother Moses isn't that surprising. In Exodus 2:4-8 she was the older sister who followed her baby brother Moses as he floated down the Nile River in a basket. In Exodus 15:20-21 she led all the Israelite women in singing after God drowned the Egyptians in the Red Sea. Though God had given her much, she wanted more. Along with Aaron her brother, she spoke against Moses' leadership.

Though God dealt swiftly with Miriam's rebellion, the fire she started spread quickly through the whole community. In the following two chapters ten spies rebelled and stirred up the entire Israelite nation against Moses. After that Moses' cousin turned against him—a Levite who was not content being a servant under Aaron and his sons. When the Lord struck him down along with two other rebellious leaders, it wasn't long before the whole community gathered together against Moses and blamed him for destroying their fellow Israelites.

- Have you seen a conflict begin and grow against a pastor or other church leader?
- How might it have been resolved before it grew out of proportion to the issue?
- What damage did it do to the congregation and its witness in the community?

We refer to this episode as an unfair fight because these people aren't really fighting against Moses; they are fighting against God who created the heavens and the earth. As Jesus told the 72 He sent out, "The one who hears you hears Me, and the one who rejects you rejects Me, and the one who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me" (Luke 10:16).

Jesus Himself faced a similar uprising when the Jewish high court engineered His death. Through false witnesses, oppression, and exerting enormous pressure on Pontius Pilate, they were able to get the Son of God executed on a cross. But through His death Jesus Christ won their salvation, along with the salvation of the whole world. And by His resurrection He assured us of victory over death and a blessed life everlasting with Him in His Kingdom.

- Which aspects of Jesus' obedience to His Father's will can we employ to help bring peace to our troubled churches?