

1. How do we react when we don't like what God is doing?

A. Symptoms of Discontent with God

2. Read Numbers 12v1-2. What evidence is there here of a 'me-centred' attitude in Miriam?
3. In what ways can 'me-centredness' show itself in our lives?
4. Why had Miriam reason to resent Moses? What can cause us to resent others?
5. Sometimes we have good reason to feel resentment to others. Why is this still wrong?
6. Neither Moses nor his wife was the real target of Miriam's resentment. Who was? What reasons can we have for resenting God, or grumbling at him?

B. Seriousness of Discontent with God

Read Exodus 14:11,12; 15:22-25; 16:1-12; 17:1-7. Skim Numbers 11:1-13, 31-34.

7. How had God reacted against the earlier grumbling in Exodus?
8. What difference was there now in Numbers? Why do you think that was?

9. What is it about grumbling that is so serious? (Is it just grumbling against God that counts?)

10. Read Numbers 12:14. What was God's response to Miriam? Why do you think it was so public?

C. Solution to Discontent with God

11. What had Miriam forgotten? How is it helpful to remember our rescue? How can we work at remembering our rescue when we feel inclined to grumble or to be resentful?
12. We need to let God be God. He has a right to rule sovereignly. What makes this hard to accept? How does Romans 8:32 help?
13. How should we respond to God's sovereignty when we don't like it?
14. We live in a broken world - nothing is perfect. Where should we get our sense of contentment from rather than circumstances or abilities or gifts? How can we feed this?
15. How will a God-centred, cross-focused view breed trust, contentment & purpose?