

-- and of course it is possible that she had been spreading it much more than Aaron had, we don't know -- but Miriam has been spreading this gossip. Miriam is shut out of the camp by the Lord's action, not simply by Moses' desire at all, but by those the Lord's action she is shut out of the camp there for 7 days, as one ~~who~~ would be who had leprosy and was being ~~healed~~ healed of it. And then the people did not journey for the 7 days. They wait until the end of the time, and then Miriam is brought in again. And so we have the whole progress delayed. That would be (e)

(e) The Whole Progress Delayed on account of Miriam's sin. How often that happens in our activity for God.. How often one of us falls into some sin, perhaps some petty sin of jealousy, of gossiping, of trying to get our own advantage in some small way and as a result of it the whole progress of God's work is delayed. They had to wait the 7 days until Miriam was again recovered from that.

These are important things for us all to think about because there is no human being who is made of iron. There is no human being who does not fall into sin. There is no human being who does not have passions and feelings and desires and cravings and personal wishes that do not interfere with his work for God, and they can -- things which are not seen can come out suddenly and can greatly interfere with God's work. I've heard stories about men who have been highly honored of the community and been looked up to and been thought of as fine pillars in their community, and they have fallen into deep sin and perhaps have become greatly looked down upon for it, and people perhaps have imprisoned them, people have gone into their possessions and have found their books low type. Books that they had been reading in their spare time, they had been filling their minds with that which was harmful to them and nobody would dream of it seeing them. No one would ~~realize~~ realize that such a thing entered in to their activity at all but it had an effect upon it, and often ~~suddenly~~ suddenly it comes forth. And how sad it is, when a man does a work for God and is a blessing to the community and leads God's people and then falls into sin. We whom God has called to devote our lives to His service -- it is very important that we think of all aspects of our character and of our attitude and think of the things that can happen that can undo all that we may desire