

this saying, "If they serve the Lord, why should they receive recognition from men?" While this is true in principle, it is not realistic because the chief spokesman also serves the Lord, but is in fact receiving a great deal of recognition for his work from men. Wisdom would see the danger in such a one-sided situation and seek to reduce the disparity.)

Another way of dealing with the problem is to discuss it openly. The chief spokesman might say, "I hope you people realize that the praise given me is really due to God for what He is doing through our whole team." The discussion could center on the fact that all the gifts being exercised are from the Lord. The exercise of some gifts is more visible than others, e.g. preaching is more visible than administration, etc. However, all of the gifts are necessary to the accomplishment of God's purpose. God rewards His servants for their faithfulness in using wisely what they have been entrusted with and not according to an applause meter, (1 Cor. 4:2).

Reviewing Scriptural principles in an atmosphere of mutual affection and trust can be very helpful. The thinking of team members that might have become clouded by circumstances is cleared by exposure to God's Word.

d. The punishment of Miriam.

Miriam was afflicted with a serious skin disease (not necessarily leprosy). The effect, while not fatal, certainly produced shame in the errant woman. Some speculate that she criticized Moses' wife because her skin was black and now hers was an ugly lily