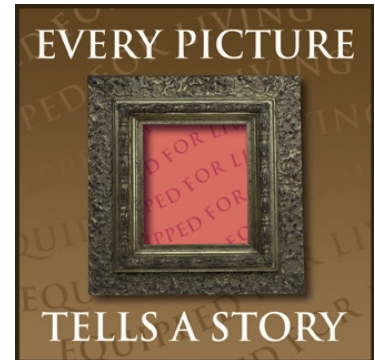




... when you need a break from the daily grind



EVERY PICTURE TELLS A STORY

#1 of 8: *Miriam: a picture of giftedness*

➤ **READY TO GO**

Have you ever heard the expression: “He is such a gifted musician” or “she is such a gifted speaker”? You’ve perhaps been left wondering if you have any gifts at all. But these things are not really gifts, but talents – a natural ability to do something really well. But the situation is different for Christians. Sure, we can have natural talent in music or whatever, but the Bible makes it clear that God gives a spiritual gift or gifts to every Christian to serve in the church. Although she lived long ago, Miriam had a number of gifts – in fact she was a picture of giftedness!

➤ **READ**

- Read Exodus 2:1-8. What special gift do you think Miriam displays in this story?
- How do you respond to this gift either in yourself or someone else?
- Read Exodus 15:20,21. What gift does she display in this incident and how does this challenge or encourage you?
- Read Micah 6:4. What gift is highlighted in this verse and how do you respond to this gift in yourself or others?
- Read Numbers 12:1-16. What attitude does Miriam display here and how does this affect your view of her or yourself?
- What practical lesson can we learn from the way God dealt with Miriam in this incident?

➤ **REFLECT**

Miriam was a gifted lady! In fact, she seems to have been gifted with at least three spiritual gifts – wisdom, prophecy and leadership. Quite a combo! She showed great wisdom in how she dealt with the situation of her baby brother in the Nile. If she hadn’t done so, one of God’s greatest servants would have died in infancy and the course of history would have been significantly altered for the worse. Then she displayed a prophetic gift and was described as a prophetess as she led worship of God following the Israelites’ great deliverance from Egypt. Finally, she is described by Micah as a leader along with her two brothers. However, she was certainly not perfect. She developed a rotten attitude toward Moses, bad-mouthing him and ending up with leprosy, although God healed her after her brother prayed for her. No, being gifted by God doesn’t guarantee we’ll never have a bad attitude and give vent to it!

Whatever our gifts, let’s remember that God has given them so that we might build up the church – not puff up ourselves! Are you using your gifts to serve God as he gives you opportunity?