

## Chapter 4

### MIRIAM the LIFE OF THE PARTY

*“Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women went out after her with tambourines and dancing. And Miriam sang to them: ‘Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.’”*

*Exodus 15:20-21*

Most scholars believe that Miriam was married to Caleb, one of the 12 spies who, along with Joshua, was sent into the Land of Canaan. Caleb and Joshua both had faith that God would give them victory, though the other spies doubted. Miriam was also Moses’ older sister. She was the one who put her baby brother in a homemade basket in the reeds, then approached Pharaoh’s daughter so her own mother could be Moses’ nursemaid - what a brilliant, brave girl! (Exodus 2:1-10) She was a musician, a leader of worship, a leader of women, a high-energy encourager, and a prophetess according to the Bible. Micah 6:4, “For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, I redeemed you from the house of bondage; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron and Miriam”.

What I see in Miriam is what I see for us as coaches’ wives. Her husband Caleb was a courageous leader - and so was she. She was not behind the scenes. She was not on the sidelines - she was called by God to be in the game. God gave her a necessary, integral role to ensure the success of Moses’ calling, and she had a calling of her own. And, as it says in the scripture above, God sent Miriam just as HE sent Moses and Aaron. Imagine her constantly nagging and

complaining to her brothers and her husband, causing dissension among the women she was leading, being discouraging and NOT leading the celebration when God displayed His power to save! Though she had to have been tired and frustrated at times, and though she did fail in disobedience at one point in the journey and suffer the consequences, she obviously supported and participated in the very difficult road from slavery to freedom. I often use this quote by Francis Chan:

“Being in war together keeps us from being at war with each other.”

It is so crucial to realize and so encouraging to understand that we, ALL coaches' wives, are NOT the afterthoughts of God. We are not married to our coach by accident, and we – YOU - are called by God to fulfill a role that no one else can. And though I don't know the dynamics of your family (kids, job, responsibilities), or how this will play out for you daily - if you are a coach's wife, this is true for you. We are not made to suffer through the life, the seasons, and challenges - we were not made to crawl, we were called to dance!

Miriam was front and center with Moses, married to Caleb, both of whom were some of the greatest leaders in the Bible - but not everyone plays the tambourine and wants to dance on a stage! So if you don't have a “Miriam” personality, that's more than ok! We are all called to be on the mission field of sports with our husbands, but it plays out in different ways for each wife and each family. Just remember our calling to dance and please don't compare yourself to any other wife!

## WRAP IT UP

1. **FIGHTING FEAR:** Miriam might appear to be fearless, but imagine how she felt when she was trying to save her baby brother from being killed! There were many other fear-filled moments in the desert, but Miriam's commitment to worship was most likely a way she combatted her fears - for example, leading worship after the Red Sea experience! Are there any worship songs that help you focus on the Lord during moments of fear and feelings of defeat?

Ask the Lord to help you look to Him for victory.

*"The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and He helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise Him."- Psalm 28:7*

2. **FINDING FAITH:** Miriam learned to walk in faith from an early age. Her family trusted in God, and she saw God work in many ways through the years. She probably discovered her gifts and abilities at an early age as well, but many people discover the unique way God created them to be later on in life. As coaches' wives, we can lose ourselves in the craziness of the coaching life. We can easily enter survival mode and forget that the Lord created us, and we are coaches' wives by design! Have you ever asked the Lord how He wants to use you specifically to bless your family and the community He has called you to? Do you compare yourself with others? Have you ever taken a personality test or spiritual gifts test to give you insight into how God has designed you?

Ask the Lord to help you believe what His word says about you.

*“For You formed my inward parts; You knitted me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you for I am fearfully (incredibly, remarkably) and wonderfully made...” - Psalm*

*139: 13-14*

**PRAAYER:**

*Lord, You have called us to the mission field of sports, together with our husbands, and You are on this journey with us. We will fear and fail along the way, and we thank you in advance for Your grace and forgiveness, and YOUR commitment to our life of faith. You’ve uniquely designed us, so please help us not compare ourselves with others, but use our position of influence in whatever way You desire. Amen!*