

It is a feature of sinful human nature to focus on the negatives rather than the positives. In this case, Miriam and Aaron might have turned their minds to all the good things God had done for them and the high privileges they enjoyed as leaders among God's people. Instead, they compared themselves with Moses and became jealous, angry, and bitter. Their distorted thinking effected their communication so that they "began to talk against Moses."

It is not uncommon for people involved in plural ministries to feel slighted. In a local church situation the congregation almost always looks to one man as the leader and he is often the object of their plaudits. Those who work in association with a senior pastor must be content with working in his shadow. As has been suggested, the team should be structured so as to give every member an opportunity for a fulfilling ministry.

Even so, absolute equality is impossible. One or some team members will have advantages over others. The tendency will be for those with fewer privileges to become envious. This could lead to "talking against" others in a more privileged position. In many cases, this could take a similar line as did the talk of Miriam and Aaron; that is, criticism of the family, friends, or personal life of the one who is the object of the jealousy. Thus a campaign is waged to cut the other down or to reduce or take away the objectionable advantage. This causes a schism in the team and could cause a division in the church if carried on.