**For He Had Married…**

**Sermon Based Discussion (January 15, 2017)**

**Race and Culture Emphasis 2017**

**WARM UP**

1. What sorts of attitudes towards interracial marriage did you encounter while growing up? How common was interracial marriage in your childhood?

*Our English congregations at BCEC began having an annual emphasis on race and culture in 2016. This year in Chinatown, we take up a delicate yet important topic, especially among east Asian immigrants – marrying people from other races.*

*In this session we consider one of the earliest instances of interracial marriage in the Bible. We will consider how God views racial prejudice and marriage and seek to apply this Scripture to our lives.*

**INTO THE BIBLE (Numbers 12:1-16)**

1. Why does the author list Miriam’s name first in verse 1, but not so in other instances? What do we know about Miriam from other OT texts?
2. What are the issues Miriam speaks against in this narrative? Based on the text, which issue(s) might be the surface issue and which might be the deeper, underlying ones?

**UNDERSTANDING**

1. How does this passage fit with other Old Testament passages that seem to forbid interracial marriage? Why does God seem to approve (or at least defend) Moses’ marriage with this Cushite woman?

1. How does who you marry (or who you allow your child to marry) reveal one’s inner beliefs and/or prejudices towards other races?

**DIFFERENCE**

1. What sorts of reasons does the world appeal to in order to combat racial prejudice? And how do those reasons compare or contrast with Christianity’s reasons for racial reconciliation?
2. In what ways might racial prejudices mix or taint our own daily choices, actions, and beliefs?

**APPLICATION**

1. Is there some area of racial prejudice that God is challenging you about? Perhaps an issue to confess or repent about? Perhaps seeking God’s healing touch?