

WAIT TILL YOU HEAR WHAT I HEARD! 236

TEXT: Jas. 3:2-10 My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body. Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.

INTRODUCTION:

1. All of us know what usually follows the statement "Wait till you hear what I heard..."
2. Other things you might hear, "Don't tell her I told you but," "Do you know what she said about you..." I am not sure about this but..."
3. Gossip is a sin of otherwise good Christians- 2 Cor. 12:20. For I fear lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I wish, and that I shall be found by you such as you do not wish; lest there be contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, backbitings, whisperings, conceits, tumults;

For I am afraid that when I come I may not find you as I want you to be, and you may not find me as you want me to be. I fear that there may be quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, factions, slander, gossip, arrogance and disorder. NIV

4. Certain excitement and fun in gossiping- Prov. 18:8 **"The words of a talebearer are like tasty trifles and they go down into the inmost body."**

The poem "Three gates of God"

If you are tempted to reveal a tale to you someone has told
about another make it pass before you speak three gates of God.
These narrow gates first is it true then is it needful in your mind
give truthful answers and the next is last and narrowest is it kind?
And if to reach your lips at last it passes through these gateways three
then you may tell the tale nor fear what the result of your speech may be.

WHY IS GOSSIP WRONG?

I. Gossip Destroys Reputations-

- A. Ecc. 7:1 **"A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth."**
- B. 1 Sam. 18:30b **"David behaved more wisely than all the servants of Saul, so that his name became highly esteemed."**

C. Notice the emphasis placed on a good name in the New Testament.

1. Acts 6:3 "men of good reputation".

2. Acts 10:22 Cornelius. And they said, "Cornelius the centurion, a just man, one who fears God and has a good reputation among all the nation of the Jews, was divinely instructed by a holy angel to summon you to his house, and to hear words from you."

3. Acts 22:12 Ananias who came to Saul. "Then a certain Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good testimony with all the Jews who dwelt there,

D. A good name takes years to build and a few seconds to destroy.

II. The Spirit of Gossip is Wrong Even if the Information is True.

- A. Prov. 11:13 **"A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter."**
- B. Ecc. 3:7b **"A time to keep silence and a time to speak."**
- C. Prov. 10:19a **"In the multitude of words sin is not lacking."**
- D. Prov. 20:19 **"He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets, therefore do not associate with one who flatters with his lips."**
- E. If they talk to you about others they will talk to others about you.
- F. Prov. 25:9-10 **"Debate your case with your neighbor himself and do not disclose the secret to another. Lest he who hears it expose your shame and your reputation be ruined."**

III. Gossip Unfairly Pre-judges.

A. Matt. 7:1 "Judge not, that you be not judged."

B. Gossip only get one side of the story, not allowed in courts! John 7:24 "Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment."

IV. Gossip Protects the Source More Than the Victim.

A. "A reliable source said. . ."

D. "I can't tell you who told me." Usually a good sign you should not listen to this person.

V. Gossip Violates the Rule of Love.

A. "We need to put the best possible interpretation on what is said or done."

B. That's the way I want others to do for me- Matt. 7:12 "Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets."

C. What is the rule of love- 1 Cor. 13:1-3 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

VI.. Gossip Ignores Context.

A. Anyone can be taken out of context and made to say something they did not mean.

B. Most gossip starts this way.

VII. Gossip is Self-motivated.

A. "If I can make you look worse than me, then I won't look so bad."

B. 2 Cor. 10:12. We are to compare ourselves to the Bible not each other. For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

VIII. Gossip Disobeys God.

A. Lev. 19:16; "**You shall not go about as a talebearer among your people.**"

B. Ps. 15:1-3; "**Lord, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill? He who walks uprightly and works righteousness, and speaks the truth in his heart; He who does not backbite with his tongue, nor does he take up a reproach against his friend.**

C.. Eph. 4:31- Evil speaking Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.

D. Speak evil of no one- Titus 3:1-2. Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men.

E. Do not speak evil of a brother. James 4:11 “Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.”

Conclusion:

A. Do not get started in this vicious habit of gossiping.

B. It starts in the heart- Matt. 15:19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.

C. Prov. 26:20 "**Where there is no wood, the fire goes out; and where there is no talebearer, strife ceases.**

D. If you have been involved in this sin you need to repent.