

HAVE YOU HEARD THE LATEST ON GOSSIPS & SLANDERS? (Rough Outline)

Two Goals for What We Say or Listen to:

- (1) Have the tongue of disciple (Is. 50:4), blessing and discipling with wisdom, etc.
- (2) Be careful how/what I listen to (Mk. 4:24)

Gossips & Slanderers (Some Definitions):

- (1) Scandal-monger, tale bearer, one who travels around
- (2) Slanderer, one who rolls things to pieces = picks things apart; puts bits together
Whisper
- (3) Secret detractors who whisper in secret, spreading evil reports
- (4) Backbiters, talkative against others

Key Passages:

Psalm 109:1-5
Proverbs 26:20-28

The Goals of Gossips/Slanderers:

- Prov 17:19 To separate friends, not to promote love
- Prov 16:28 To create dissention and drive a wedge between people
- Prov 10:18 To get back at people they secretly hate
- Prov 11:9 To batter, hurt or diminish people

What Motivates Gossips/Slanderers?

- Prov 6:12-15 Perversity and crookedness of heart
- Prov 9:7-8 Refusal to accept correction or chastening
- Prov 15:4 Viciousness
- Jer 20:10 Revenge

Our Enemy is Preoccupied with Accusing:

- Rev 12:10 He is the accuser.
- Zech 3:1 He always stands ready to accuse.
- Ps 31:13 The enemy's plot against leaders includes slander and intimidation.

Other Suggestions in Scripture:

- Jer 6:28 Slander and rebellion walk hand in hand.
- Prov 11:13 Slander manifests an unfaithful spirit.
- Luke 6:7 People accuse others when they do things differently (i.e. healing on the Sabbath).
- Rom 1:28-30 Gossip and backbiting are manifestations of a depraved mind (see 2 Cor 12:20).

Warnings about Gossip & Slander:

- 1 Tim 5:13 Watch for people whose "trail" from house to house is telling secrets -- talking badly about or telling on other people -- rather than discipling.

- Prov 6:16-19 Among things God finds especially hateful are three related to false accusation and slander: a lying tongue; a false witness; and someone who sows seeds of discord among brothers.

- Prov 17:4 What you listen to is a good indication of what you are really like yourself.

- Prov 18:8 Slander and gossip are dangerous to listen to because they wound you -- branding themselves deep in the chambers of your heart and mind.

- Prov 20:19 Gossips love to strip people by "revealing" private things about them. Don't be taken in by a gossip, as though he only strips other people. He will strip you just as bare to others as he has stripped others to you.

- Prov 18:17 Gossip and slander sound reasonable because they are uttered in a vacuum. Don't be taken in to believe something unkind about someone, without hearing their side of the story.

- 1 Tim 5:19 Be especially careful not to entertain, receive or give place to accusation about leaders unless there are witnesses of clear wrong-doing.

- 3 Jn 10 Malicious gossips should be confronted and exposed.