

The Gossiping Tongue

Death and life are in the power of the tongue

- “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me” – ? ? ? ?

I. Talk Is Not Cheap (James 3:1-12)

1-2: does not say all teachers
will be condemned

- Mt.16:22-23, Peter

3-5: illustrations and application

- 3: large horse, small bit
- 4: large ship, strong winds
- 5: application: tongue is small, but...

6: many passages describe the tongue

- Fire, 6.
- World of iniquity, 6. Ro.1:29-32
 - Thief: robs of good name.
 - Coward: talks behind the back.
 - Brute: insensitive to others' feelings.
- Poison, 8. Ro.3:13.
- Lash, Job 5:21.
- Beast, Ga.5:15
- Arrow, Jer.9:8

7-8: tongue cannot be tamed

9-12: easy to be inconsistent in use of tongue

- Some gossipers are blunt.
- Skillful gossipers develop techniques.
 - Subtle approach.
 - Pseudo-spiritual approach.

I. Talk Is Not Cheap (James 3:1-12)

II. What Is Gossip?

Gossip is NOT exposing false teachers.

- Ac.13:10
- 2 Tim.4:14-15

Gossip is NOT relating a concern about someone in his best or another's interest

- Matthew – Mark – Luke – John – record Peter's denials.
- 1 Co.1:11

It is gossip when we tell and/or listen to ...

- Something uncomplimentary about someone with an attitude of entertainment. Gn.9
- Build up our reputation at another's expense (jealousy).
 - Num.12, Miriam
 - 2 Sm.20:8-10, Joab and Amasa
 - 3 John 10

It is gossip when we tell and/or listen to ...

- Something uncomplimentary about someone with an attitude of entertainment. Gn.9
- Build up our reputation at another's expense (jealousy).
- Get revenge. Mt.18:15-17
- Benefit oneself at expense of another.
Jn.12
- Have something to say. 2 Th.3:11; 1 Tim. 5:13; 1 Pt.4:15

Lev.19:16, (talebearer) . . .18

1. Neutral and true remarks (informer). Mt.12.
2. Negative truths.
 - a. What is the intention?
 - b. THINK test –
 - 1) **T** rue? Pr.17:4
 - 2) **H** elpful? Ec.10:1
 - 3) **I** mportant? Pr.15:2
 - 4) **N** ecessary? Pr.17:9
 - 5) **K** ind? Mt.7:12

Lev.19:16, (talebearer) . . .18

1. Neutral and true remarks (informer). Mt.12.
2. Negative truths.
 - a. What is the intention?
 - b. THINK test –
3. Slander. [Talebearer = slander, NASB; NRSV; ESV...]. Character assassination...