

"KEEP IT SHUT": QUESTIONS FOR CHAPTER 3 (PGS. 42-58)

To be discussed Wednesday Class, Nov. 4 OR Sunday Class, Nov. 8

ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR US TO DISCUSS THIS CHAPTER AS A CLASS.

CHAPTER 3: STOP FILLING THE GAP: Learning to Listen

1. FROM PG. 42-45: **PSALM 34:11** "COME, YOU CHILDREN, LISTEN TO ME; I WILL TEACH YOU TO FEAR THE LORD [WITH AWE-INSPIRED REVERENCE & WORSHIP HIM WITH OBEDIENCE].
 - 1A. Explain how the author "FILLS THE GAP" in a conversation.

 - 1B. FROM PG. 44: What did her school teacher say "needed improvement" because of her "yakkling skills"?

2. FROM PG. 46: What two things did Jesus show her to put into practice to help her shed her habit of gap filling?

3. FROM PG. 47: **JAMES 1:19-20** "MY DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS, TAKE NOTE OF THIS: EVERYONE SHOULD BE QUICK TO LISTEN, SLOW TO SPEAK & SLOW TO BECOME ANGRY, BECAUSE HUMAN ANGER DOES NOT PRODUCE THE RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT GOD DESIRES."
 - 3A. Which part of this verse do you struggle with the most? Why?

4. FROM PG. 48-50: **PROVERBS 10:19** "WHEN THERE ARE MANY WORDS, SIN IS UNAVOIDABLE, BUT THE ONE WHO CONTROLS HIS LIPS IS WISE."
 - 4A. What things in your daily life tend to trigger SPEAKING TOO MANY WORDS? (Ask Jesus to show you over the next couple of days)

 - 4B. How did the author's rambling on and on hurt her friend? How did she make it right?

 - 4C. Share a time when your many words led you to sin. How did you handle the situation?

5. FROM PG. 50, BOOK QUOTE: "JESUS, PUT YOUR ARM AROUND MY SHOULDERS & YOUR HAND OVER MY MOUTH."
PSALM 141:3 "SET A GUARD OVER MY MOUTH, LORD; KEEP WATCH OVER THE DOOR OF MY LIPS." (NIV)
"TAKE CONTROL OF WHAT I SAY, O LORD, & GUARD MY LIPS." (NLT) "HELP ME, LORD, TO KEEP MY MOUTH SHUT & MY LIPS SEALED." (TLB)
After reading the book quote and Bible verses, what is the Holy Spirit saying to your heart? Write your prayer to Him here.

6. FROM PG. 50-52: **PROVERBS 29:20** "DO YOU SEE A MAN WHO SPEAKS TOO SOON? THERE IS MORE HOPE FOR A FOOL THAN FOR HIM."

6A. Describe a fool as the author does on page 51. (For further help, Google "Bible verses about fools" and write below your most interesting Bible verse and what you learned from it.)

6B. Reread Proverbs 29:20 & your description of a fool. What do you think the Bible verse is saying?

6C. What practical helps did you learn from "perfecting the art of pause and pondering" to help you break your habit of speaking too quickly?

7. FROM PG. 52-54: **PROVERBS 18:13** "THE ONE WHO GIVES AN ANSWER BEFORE HE LISTENS - THIS IS FOOLISHNESS & DISGRACE FOR HIM."

Listening is more than just being quiet for a moment and pausing. What did you learn about sharpening your skills to be a better listener? How could knowing this enhance our small group time with each other?

8. FROM PG. 54-57: BOOK QUOTE: "I HAVE OFTEN REGRETTED MY SPEECH, NEVER MY SILENCE."

PROVERBS 17:28 "EVEN FOOLS ARE THOUGHT WISE IF THEY KEEP SILENT, & DISCERNING IF THEY HOLD THEIR TONGUES."

Explain how your silence can be more than golden.

9. FROM PG. 57-58: **PROVERBS 18:2** "A [SELF CONFIDENT] FOOL HAS NO DELIGHT IN UNDERSTANDING BUT ONLY IN REVEALING HIS PERSONAL OPINIONS & HIMSELF."

When has failing to listen to Jesus as you were talking with someone ever caused you trouble? What happened? If you could have do-over's, how would you go back and handle the interaction differently?

10. FROM PG. 57-58: BOOK CHALLENGE: "For the next 24-48 hours, make an effort to really listen to the people in your life. Purpose to not give your opinion unless you are directly asked. Instead, seek to ask clarifying questions that will help you better understand what the other person is expressing. Beyond that, keep your thoughts to yourself. See if anyone comments on the difference they see in you."

DID YOU COMPLETE THE CHALLENGE? If yes, write below what Jesus showed you.