

"KEEP IT SHUT": QUESTIONS FOR CHAPTER 5 (PGS. 78-94)

To be discussed Wednesday Class, Dec. 2 OR Sunday Class, Dec. 6

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

CHAPTER 5: MOTIVES AND MANNERS: It's Not Just What You Say; It's Why and How You Say It

1. FROM PG. 78-81: **JEREMIAH 17:9-10 "THE HUMAN HEART IS THE MOST DECEITFUL OF ALL THINGS, & DESPERATELY WICKED. WHO REALLY KNOWS HOW BAD IT IS? BUT I, THE LORD, SEARCH ALL HEARTS & EXAMINE SECRET MOTIVES. I GIVE ALL PEOPLE THEIR DUE REWARDS, ACCORDING TO WHAT THEIR ACTIONS DESERVE."**
 - 1A. Give a summary of the two stories that begin this chapter.

 - 1B. What did you learn about your motives behind the words that you say?

 - 1C. Share your own story when you said something that was technically true but you said it with a wrong motive in order to make someone else feel bad or guilty or to make yourself look better than them. Briefly explain what you learned from that experience.

2. FROM PG. 82: **PROVERBS 16:2 "ALL A PERSON'S WAYS SEEMS PURE TO THEM, BUT MOTIVES ARE WEIGHED BY THE LORD." (NIV)**
 - **"ALL THE WAYS OF A MAN ARE CLEAN AND INNOCENT IN HIS OWN EYES [AND HE MAY SEE NOTHING WRONG WITH HIS ACTIONS], BUT THE LORD WEIGHS AND EXAMINES THE MOTIVES AND INTENTS [OF THE HEART & KNOWS THE TRUTH]." (AMP)**
 - **"PEOPLE THINK THAT WHATEVER THEY DO IS RIGHT, BUT THE LORD JUDGES THEIR REASON FOR DOING IT." (ERV)**
 - 2A. We can choose to remain blind to the motives behind what we say, but WHO knows exactly WHY we say what we say and do what we do? How should this affect us?

 - 2B. Is it ever possible for you to know the true motives of someone other than yourself?
If you told Jesus that you knew someone's motive and why they did what they did to you, what do you think He would say to you?

3. FROM PG. 83-84: **PSALM 51:10 "CREATE IN ME A NEW, CLEAN HEART, O GOD, FILLED WITH CLEAN THOUGHTS & RIGHT DESIRES."**

- 3A. Take some time of self-reflection and humbly ask God to show you where you might be BLIND to your true motives behind your words. As you seek the Lord, ask yourself the questions below to help you identify any blind spots you might have.
- 3A1. Am I certain that what I want to say is true?
 - 3A2. Is my goal to have my comment help the person or situation at hand? Or is it to put a little pinch in their heart?
 - 3A3. Do I feel my words will bring a solution or, if I'm totally honest, might they cause more of a problem?
 - 3A4. Even if what I plan to say is truthful, is my aim to say something that will make me look better by comparison?
 - 3A5. Have I earned the right to speak to this particular person?
 - 3A6. If I were speaking about this person to someone else, would I say the exact same thing as I would if that person were sitting in front of me?
 - 3A7. Are these words really necessary? Why?
 - 3A8. Have I prayed about it, or only thought about it in an effort to plan what I've already determined to say?
 - 3A9. Am I trying to play Holy Spirit and convict someone or guilt them into changing their mind?
 - 3A10. If the roles were reversed, would I want the other person to say the same thing to me?

3B. What blind spots (above) did the Holy Spirit speak to your heart specifically about? What is the Lord inviting you to do?

4. FROM PG. 85-86: **PROVERBS 25:23 "LIKE A NORTH WIND THAT BRINGS UNEXPECTED RAIN IS A SLY TONGUE - WHICH PROVOKES A HORRIFIED LOOK."**

4A. Define "SLY" as the author does.

4B. Why is speaking with a sly tongue so dangerous?

5. FROM PG. 86-88: Read the Scriptures and answer the question.

5A. **PROV. 19:27 "STOP LISTENING TO INSTRUCTION, MY SON, & YOU WILL STRAY FROM THE WORDS OF KNOWLEDGE."**

What can shape our motives so that they are pure and pleasing to Jesus?

5B. **MATTHEW 12:34 "THE MOUTH SPEAKS FROM THE OVERFLOW OF THE HEART."**

What can shape our motives so that they are pure and pleasing to Jesus?

5C. **MATTHEW 12:35 "A GOOD PERSON PRODUCES GOOD THINGS FROM THE TREASURY OF A GOOD HEART, & AN EVIL PERSON PRODUCES EVIL THINGS FROM THE TREASURY OF AN EVIL HEART."**

What can shape our motives so that they are pure and pleasing to Jesus?

5D. How did our author take action to shape her motives? Give her practical examples.

5E. What every day habits do you have to keep your motives pure before Jesus as you speak to others?

6. FROM PG. 88-93, BOOK QUOTE: "UNFORGIVENESS IS LIKE SIPPING ON POISON & THEN EXPECTING THE OTHER PERSON TO DIE."

EPH. 4:32 "BE KIND & HELPFUL TO ONE ANOTHER, TENDER-HEARTED [COMPASSIONATE, UNDERSTANDING], FORGIVING ONE ANOTHER [READILY & FREELY], JUST AS GOD IN CHRIST ALSO FORGAVE YOU."

How do you respond when you are on the receiving end of painful comments spoken with good intentions or wrong motives? From pages 92-93, give the helpful ways the author specifically deals with a difficult family member & others who she has conflict with in ministry & life. What did you learn?

7. FROM PAGE 93-94, BOOK QUOTE: "BOTTOM LINE? MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, I NEED TO LEARN TO KEEP IT SHUT. HOW ABOUT YOU? I THINK I HAVE ENOUGH DUCT TAPE FOR THE BOTH OF US." Read the Scriptures below about SILENCE and answer the question.

7A. **PROVERBS 17:28 "EVEN A FOOL WHO KEEPS SILENT IS CONSIDERED WISE; WHEN HE CLOSES HIS LIPS, HE IS DEEMED INTELLIGENT."**

What is the benefit of being silent?

7B. **PSALM 46:10 "BE STILL, & KNOW THAT I AM GOD. I WILL BE EXALTED AMONG THE NATIONS, I WILL BE EXALTED IN THE EARTH!"**

What is the benefit of being silent?

7C. **EXODUS 14:14 "THE LORD WILL FIGHT FOR YOU, & YOU HAVE ONLY TO BE SILENT."**

What is the benefit of being silent?

7D. **PSALM 37:7 "BE STILL BEFORE THE LORD & WAIT PATIENTLY FOR HIM; FRET NOT YOURSELF OVER THE ONE WHO PROSPERS IN HIS WAY, OVER THE MAN WHO CARRIES OUT EVIL DEVICES!"**

What is the benefit of being silent?

8. FROM PG. 93-94: Read all the different scenarios that warrant the author to BE QUIET. Which one did the Holy Spirit speak to your heart about? Explain why.