

# "KEEP IT SHUT": QUESTIONS FOR CHAPTER 7 (PGS. 112-133)

To be discussed Wednesday Class, Feb. 3 OR Sunday Class, Feb. 7

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

## CHAPTER 7: BUT I'M JUST SHARING A PRAYER REQUEST: Stopping Gossip & Hearsay

1. Briefly share a time that you have either been the victim of gossip or have actually gossiped about someone else. How did either scenario make you feel? (Note: Please be careful not to use specific names but say... "I have a family member, I have a friend, I have a co-worker.")
  
2. FROM PG. 115: Define HEARSAY (pg. 115) & GOSSIP (pg. 118-119) as the author does.
  - 2A. HEARSAY defined:
  
  - 2B. GOSSIP defined:
  
3. FROM PG. 116: Choose one of the Biblical examples listed on this page regarding gossip and talking behind someone else's back. Get into your Bible and read further about the gossip story. What did you learn?
  
4. FROM PG. 117-118: Compare what GOSSIP IS and what GOSSIP IS NOT.
  - 4A. Which thought listed surprised you and gave you something to think and pray about?
  
  - 4B. Use these same guidelines and tell how you can ask for a prayer request for someone without being a gossip.
  
5. FROM PG. 119-125: **PSALM 31:11,13 "I AM RIDICULED BY ALL MY ADVERSARIES & EVEN BY MY NEIGHBORS. I AM DREADED BY MY ACQUAINTANCES; THOSE WHO SEE ME IN THE STREET RUN FROM ME. I HAVE HEARD THE GOSSIP OF MANY; TERROR IS ON EVERY SIDE. WHEN THEY CONSPIRED AGAINST ME, THEY PLOTTED TO TAKE MY LIFE."**

King David was the victim of gossip & was dreadfully hurt by it. How did he learn to "BOSS HIS HEART AROUND"? Read the Scriptures, fill in the blanks, and answer the question.

  - 5A. On page 121: **PSALM 31:19-20 "HOW GREAT IS THE GOODNESS YOU HAVE STORED UP FOR THOSE WHO FEAR YOU (TRUST & REVERENCE YOU). YOU LAVISH IT ON THOSE WHO COME TO YOU FOR PROTECTION, BLESSING THEM BEFORE THE WATCHING WORLD. YOU HIDE THEM IN THE SHELTER OF YOUR PRESENCE, SAFE FROM THOSE WHO CONSPIRE AGAINST THEM. YOU SHELTER THEM IN YOUR PRESENCE, FAR FROM ACCUSING TONGUES."**
    - 5A1. When you are the object of unwanted gossip, "BOSS YOUR HEART AROUND" TIP #1:  
STOP FOCUSING ON THE GOSSIP & BEGIN FOCUSING ON THE P\_\_\_\_\_ OF G\_\_\_\_\_.

5A2. Go ahead and list all of them that you can find from these verses.

5B. On page 122: **PROVERBS 29:25 "IT IS DANGEROUS TO BE CONCERNED WITH WHAT OTHERS THINK OF YOU, BUT IF YOU TRUST THE LORD, YOU ARE SAFE."**

**1 THESSALONIANS 2:4 "FOR WE SPEAK AS MESSENGERS APPROVED BY GOD TO BE ENTRUSTED WITH THE GOOD NEWS. OUR PURPOSE IS TO PLEASE GOD, NOT PEOPLE. HE ALONE EXAMINES THE MOTIVES OF OUR HEARTS."**

When you are the object of unwanted gossip, "BOSS YOUR HEART AROUND" TIP #2:  
CARE MORE ABOUT WHAT G\_\_\_\_\_ THINKS ABOUT ME THAN WHAT O\_\_\_\_\_ DO.

5C. On page 123: **PSALM 31: 23-24 "PRAISE THE LORD, FOR HE HAS SHOWN ME THE WONDERS OF HIS UNFAILING LOVE. HE KEPT ME SAFE WHEN MY CITY WAS UNDER ATTACK." BE STRONG & TAKE HEART, ALL YOU WHO HOPE IN THE LORD."**

5C1. When you are the object of unwanted gossip, "BOSS YOUR HEART AROUND" TIP #3:  
BEGIN TO P\_\_\_\_\_ THE L\_\_\_\_\_ FOR ALL THINGS BIG & SMALL  
THROUGHOUT YOUR DAY.

5C2. Give this a go and write below how this simple practice changed your thinking and attitude.

5D. On page 123: **PSALM 31:1 "O LORD, I HAVE COME TO YOU FOR PROTECTION; DON'T LET ME BE DISGRACED."**

**EXODUS 14:14 "THE LORD WILL FIGHT FOR YOU; YOU NEED ONLY TO BE STILL."**

When you are the object of unwanted gossip, "BOSS YOUR HEART AROUND" TIP #4:  
RUN TO GOD & HIS WORD FOR P\_\_\_\_\_ & RESIST THE URGE TO DEFEND YOUR  
FRAGILE IMAGE.

5E. On page 124-125: **PSALM 31:7 "I WILL BE GLAD & REJOICE IN YOUR UNFAILING LOVE, FOR YOU HAVE SEEN MY TROUBLES & YOU CARE ABOUT THE ANGUISH OF MY SOUL."**

When you are the object of unwanted gossip, "BOSS YOUR HEART AROUND" TIP #5:  
REMIND YOURSELF THAT YOUR HAPPY ENDING COMES FROM KNOWING EVERY DAY THAT YOU ARE  
L\_\_\_\_\_ UNCONDITIONALLY FOREVER BY KING J\_\_\_\_\_ NO MATTER WHAT.

5F. On page 125: **PSALM 31:19 "HOW GREAT IS THE GOODNESS YOU HAVE STORED UP FOR THOSE WHO FEAR YOU (TRUST & REVERENCE YOU). YOU LAVISH IT ON THOSE WHO COME TO YOU FOR PROTECTION, BLESSING THEM BEFORE THE WATCHING WORLD."**

When you are the object of unwanted gossip, "BOSS YOUR HEART AROUND" TIP #6:  
REALIZE THE W\_\_\_\_\_ IS WATCHING & LEARNING FROM OUR EXAMPLE TO SEE IF GOD IS  
REAL & CAN BE TRUSTED OR NOT.

6. FROM PG. 126-132: Make sure you are not the one doing the gossiping by **BREAKING THE GRIP OF GOSSIP** in your mouth. Read the scriptures and answer the question.

6A. On page 126-127: **PROVERBS 11:13 "A GOSSIP BETRAYS A CONFIDENCE, BUT A TRUSTWORTHY PERSON KEEPS A SECRET."**

How can I break the GRIP OF GOSSIPING according to this verse?

6B. On page 127: **PROVERBS 16:28 "A PERVERSE PERSON STIRS UP CONFLICT, & A GOSSIP SEPARATES CLOSE FRIENDS."**

How can I break the GRIP OF GOSSIPING according to this verse?

6C. On page 127-129: **ROMANS 1:29 "THEIR LIVES BECAME FULL OF EVERY KIND OF WICKEDNESS, SIN, GREED, HATE, ENVY, MURDER, QUARRELING, DECEPTION, MALICIOUS BEHAVIOR, & GOSSIP.**

**I JOHN 1:9 "BUT IF WE CONFESS OUR SINS TO HIM, HE CAN BE DEPENDED ON TO FORGIVE US & TO CLEANSE US FROM EVERY WRONG. AND IT IS PERFECTLY PROPER FOR GOD TO DO THIS FOR US BECAUSE CHRIST DIED TO WASH AWAY OUR SINS."**

How can I break the GRIP OF GOSSIPING according to these verses?

6D. On page 130-131: **EZEKIEL 36:26 "AND I WILL GIVE YOU A NEW HEART—I WILL GIVE YOU NEW & RIGHT DESIRES—& PUT A NEW SPIRIT WITHIN YOU. I WILL TAKE OUT YOUR STONY HEARTS OF SIN & GIVE YOU NEW HEARTS OF LOVE."**

What 2 actions (listed as #2 & #3 on these pages) can we do that show that Jesus has given us a new heart and released our GRIP OF GOSSIPING?

7. FROM PG. 132-133: **PSALM 139:1-4 "O LORD, YOU HAVE EXAMINED MY HEART & KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT ME. YOU KNOW WHEN I SIT DOWN OR STAND UP. YOU KNOW MY THOUGHTS EVEN WHEN I'M FAR AWAY. YOU SEE ME WHEN I TRAVEL & WHEN I REST AT HOME. YOU KNOW EVERYTHING I DO. YOU KNOW WHAT I AM GOING TO SAY EVEN BEFORE I SAY IT, LORD."**

7A. If you knew that your remarks said in private (or so you thought) were going to be broadcast to the world, would you still have said them?

7B. Who actually hears every thought and word that we whisper or say?

7C. Tape a sticky note on the back of your cell phone or on the refrigerator that says, "I CAN HEAR YOU. LOVE, GOD." How did that help you be more careful with what you said?