

The Foolish and the Lazy pt 5

Proverbs 26

“Without wood, fire goes out; without a gossip, conflict dies down.”-Proverbs 26:20

As you reflect within, what are some ways we unintentionally start gossip?

- *Did you h_____ about? *Venting or C_____ *Sharing concerns
- *Reacting to appearances or behavior *Using h_____ or sarcasm
- *Social media triggers *I probably shouldn't s_____ this, but....

“Those who gossip to you will gossip about you.”

● The Foolish and the Lazy pt. 5

18-19 Like a madman who throws flaming darts and deadly arrows, so is the person who deceives his neighbor and says, “I was only joking!”

What valuable lessons does King Solomon teach in this verse?

- Getting caught in a l____ and trying to brush it off as a j_____!
- Lies cannot be excused by claiming, “I didn't mean it.”

What is a madman?

- ◆ Someone who has lost control, in a destructive frenzy, rabid or insane.

What does it mean to deceive?

- ◆ To deliberately cause someone to believe something that is not true, especially for personal gain; to mislead, delude, betray, to lead astray or frustrate by underhandedness.

Who are some notable examples of deception in the Bible?

*J_____ & L_____ Genesis 29:25

*D_____ Judges 16:15-17

*J_____ Matthew 26:14-16

“Deception is one of the quickest ways to gain little things and lose big things.”

Where do lies come from?

*Carelessness

*G_____

*Frustration

*A_____

*Lack of j_____

The D_____ (John 8:44)

What are some things we should do instead of lying?

*Control our a_____

*Don't seek r_____

*Think about e_____

➤ Ephesians 4:25-26; Romans 12:19; Revelation 21:8

20 Without wood, fire goes out; without a gossip, conflict dies down.

What does King Solomon teach us about gossip?

- It is the f_____ that provokes conflict.
- If we stop f_____ gossip, conflict goes away.

What is gossip?

- ◆ To grumble, criticize, slander, murmur; whispering complaints, back-talking against others, talebearer.

Why do people gossip?

*It's a way to b_____ and c_____ with people

*Entertainment

*Processing social dynamics

What is the main reason we should stop gossiping and how would you encourage someone who struggles with gossip?

- ◆ To stop promoting c_____ and destroying relationships.
- James 3:5-6; Galatians 5:14-15

21 As charcoal for embers and wood for fire, so is a quarrelsome person for kindling strife.

What does King Solomon teach us about strife?

- It comes from a q_____ person.

What does it mean to be quarrelsome?

- ◆ Someone who is moody. Having an aggressive or fighting attitude. brawling, contention, discord, being actually at war or engaged in hostilities, argumentative.

What is strife?

- ◆ Every level of c_____, from a neighborly quarrel to a formal case in a lawsuit. Adversary, controversy, pleading.

King Solomon's point here is just like a gossiping person fuels conflict, so a quarrelsome person kindles strife. Aggression worsens conflict the same way adding wood to fire makes the blaze grow. Some people look for ways to start an argument.

How should we handle argumentative people?

- *Stay c_____ and grounded
- *Focus on the issue, not the ego
- *Set b_____
- *Practice strategic listening
- *Don't take the bait
- *Know when it's w_____ it

Biblical examples of quarrelsome people:

- *Isaac with Philistines; Genesis 26:17-22
- *Paul with Alexander the copper smith; 2 Timothy 4:14-15
- *John with Diotrephes; 3 John 1:10
- Jude 1:18; 2 Peter 3:3

22 A gossip's words are like choice food that goes down to one's innermost being.

How does King Solomon describe the impact of a gossip's words?

- Satisfying, like C_____ f_____!

In modern English, bits of gossip are described as "juicy," suggesting they are especially t_____. Gossip is one of the sins that almost everyone is naturally tempted.

What is it about gossip that lures us in?

- *Secret l_____
- *Scandalous cover-up
- *Sense of p_____

What is a deeper effect of gossip we often overlook?

- It can get into our h_____! Psalm 101:5; 64:3-4

How would you encourage someone who struggles with to stop gossip?

*Speak only what is h_____ *Consider J_____ day *Hypocritical

- Matthew 12:36-37; Ephesians 4:29; 1 Peter 2:1

What is one thing you learned that you are willing to share with someone else?

“Words are powerful. They can create or they can destroy. So choose your words wisely.”