

“Gossip – The High Cost of Low Talk”

Telling Lies, Destroying Lives

Acts 21:27-40

Introduction: Before Looking at the Passage

Have you ever suffered harm due to someone else’s gossip about you? Have you had to eat crow after gossiping and being found out? A good reputation takes a lifetime to build but only ill founded gossip to destroy.

Where does gossip come from? It comes from partial truths and inventive minds. I believe it also comes from lack of love. I Corinthians 13:5 says that true love is not easily provoked and is not quick to think evil. Gossip is the practice of jumping to conclusions when we have a little truth and a lot of suspicion. If we can assume that we all love with the love of God, then how are we supposed to deal with the juicy tidbits of information that we pick up?

- What organ do we use for Gossip?
 - Mouth
 - Tongue

But How can we stop Gossip before it gets to our Mouths? Let’s Consider where gossip begins.

- What Organ do we use for Listening?
 - Ears
 - Eyes

In Our Text today see if you can pick out how the participants used their eyes and ears to allow Gossip to destroy a Good Man.

AFTER EXEGESIS

What is Gossip? How would define it?

Gossip=

- Dictionary.com = **rumor, esp. about the personal or private affairs of others, scandalous**

- *Bible = **talebearer , scandal monger, slander**

Gossip springs from information received with our:

- *Eyes*
- *Ears*

See if you can see how the people in this video use their eyes and ears to deal with Gossip

SURVIVOR VIDEO

I. **E**yes – “when they saw him” (vs. 27-33)

** Illustration – deacon in a church I served in one Sunday morning service was giving a prayer request and made an off handed comment about a lady in the community that he saw coming out of a liquor store with a bag. He said he was pretty sure she was not just getting soda pop and pretzels. It made someone else in the congregation not want to come back to the church because in their words, “ That deacon should not assume that he knows what was in the bag and say those things. I don’t want him talking as though he knows whatever I buy when I come out of a place of business.” This person was right. The deacon was wrong to assume knowledge of something not fully seen and then to report it as though it were fact. That was an example of gossip because of what is not fully seen.

Our sightings reveal Our:

A. Prejudice – “*saw him in the temple*”

B. Premonitions – “had seen before with him, in the city”

= “*a feeling of anticipation of or anxiety over a future event*”

C. Perquisites – “they went about to kill him”
= “*a benefit expected as one's due, Something claimed as an exclusive right*”

II. **E**ars – “demanded who he was ” (vs. 34-40)

Our ears can detect reports that are:

A. **Inconsistent** – “*could not know the certainty*”

B. **Inflammable** – “*Away with him*”

= *Easily ignited and capable of burning rapidly; flammable. Quickly or easily aroused to strong emotion; excitable to anger*

Synonyms = dangerous, flammable, hazardous, ignitable, incendiary, risky, unsafe

C. **Inaccurate** – “*Art not thou that Egyptian...?*”

The commander, surprised that **Paul** could **speak Greek**, had supposed the apostle to be an **Egyptian** insurrectionist who had not yet been apprehended by the Romans. Evidently this Egyptian rebel was unable or refused to speak Greek.

Josephus wrote of an Egyptian impostor who claimed to be a prophet. He said this Egyptian had gathered 30,000 followers (Luke with accuracy states **4,000**; Josephus had a tendency to inflate numbers) and in A.D. 54 came to the Mount of Olives promising his adherents that the walls of Jerusalem would collapse at his command. Instead, the Roman army promptly marched on them, killed some and captured others, while the remainder were scattered. The Egyptian escaped.

The T-N-K Test Philippians 4:8

- Is it **T**ue? Is it **N**ecessary? Is it **K**ind?

Other verses about GOSSIP to study:

Exodus 20:16; Leviticus 19:16

Psalms 34:13, 39:1, 52:2

Proverbs 6:16-19, 11:13, 12:8, 16:28, 18:8, 20:19, 25:23; James 1:26, 3:5-10; Romans 1:29; II Corinthians 12:19-21

Is Gossip really that Bad??!

- **Rabbi's have always put it on par with Idolatry!**

- **Paul list it with some awful sins including murder:**

Romans 1:29

- **The Ninth commandment says:**
"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor" (Exodus 20:16).

- Gossip makes the God Hates list in Proverbs 6:16-19