

Gossip Devotional
By Laura Cmaylo

Definition –rumor or talk of a personal, sensational, or intimate nature. A person who habitually spreads intimate or private rumors or facts, trivial chatty talk. Indiscreet talk.

Destruction-Gossip and slander do not necessarily originate with lies but with distortions. Statements and actions of people can be confirmed but motives can not.

FOR EXAMPLE

Scenario-A-I saw this Jerry and Susie in the courtyard this afternoon and they were talking. It really looked like they were mad! I heard one of them say “you just don’t understand.” I am pretty sure they were working through an issue. Those two are always having issues. Sally looked the most upset I thought. Jerry had quite the frown on his face. Sometimes I really wonder if those two are going to work out.

Senario B- Wanda heard Sally telling me this and later was talking with Gladys. Gladys was saying that she thought that Jerry and Susie were really being mature about their dating. Wanda tells her that she heard Sally saying that she had seen the couple in the courtyard and they were upset. It really made her wonder if they were having issues. So now Sally, Wanda, and Gladys think that Jerry and Susie are having relationship issues. Gladys now doubts how they are doing handling everything.

Fact- The fact of the matter is that Jerry and Sally were upset because of a situation going on in Sally’s church back home and she was telling about how a church member had told the pastor, who is her dad, that he just didn’t understand. Jerry knew what was going on because he had talked to her dad a few times about it. This was a serious situation that was hurting their family. This had nothing to do with Jerry and Susie’s relationship.

Other scenarios: She helped him get his drink- what was up with that? Well, the fact is that he had a broken foot and b/c he was sitting down you couldn’t tell. He had asked for her help, as she was the only one going by.

EX. Feathers spread can never be brought back. Gossip can never be completely undone.

Our motives are very important for evaluating one’s character.

“In the form of ugly gossip it twists motive, discredits character, undermines public confidence.”

“Doubt once planted is difficult to erase.” - Joyful heart

Verses

Prov. 31:26- “She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.”

Pr 29:11 A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards.

Prov. 11:13 He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction.

Prov. 12:23 A prudent man concealeth knowledge: but the heart of fools proclaimeth foolishness.

Prov. 13:3 He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction.

Prov. 13:10 Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.

Prov. 14:3 In the mouth of the foolish is a rod of pride: but the lips of the wise shall preserve them.

Prov. 14:23 In all labour there is profit: but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury.

Prov. 15:2 The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness.

Prov. 15:14 The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge: but the mouth of fools feedeth on foolishness.

Prov. 16:27-28 An ungodly man diggeth up evil: and in his lips there is as a burning fire. A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends.

Quotes about Gossip

"A lie has no leg, but a scandal has wings." - Thomas Fuller

"When tempted to gossip-breathe through your nose." - T.N. Tiemeyer

"Never report what may hurt another unless it be greater hurt to conceal it." - William Penn

"Whoever gossips to you will gossip about you." - Spanish Proverb

"No one gossips about other people's secret virtues." - Bertrand Russell

"A rumor without a leg to stand on will get around some other way." - John Tudor

What you don't see with your eyes, don't witness with your mouth. ~Jewish Proverb

If you reveal your secrets to the wind, you should not blame the wind for revealing them to the trees. ~Kahlil Gibran, *Sand and Foam*

Do not repeat anything you will not sign your name to. ~Author Unknown

Trying to squash a rumor is like trying to unring a bell. ~Shana Alexander

CURE- If you can't say something in front of that person then don't say it at all. STOP. Memorize verses. Get new friends. Stop Gossip in its tracks.