**Mouth Management Series: Gossip**

**08042024**

**Key Scriptures:**

1. **Ephesians 4:29** - "Do not let any \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."
2. **Exodus 23:1** - "Do not spread \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ reports."
3. **James 1:26** - "Those who consider themselves \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_."
4. **Proverbs 18:21** - "The tongue has the power of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and those who love it will eat its fruit."

**Key Points:**

1. **Gossip Hurts the Person It's Spoken About:**
	* Proverbs 16:28 - "A troublemaker plants seeds of strife; gossip \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the best of friends."
	* Personal Reflection: Have you ever lost a friendship due to gossip? How did it make you feel?
2. **Gossip Hurts the Listener:**
	* Proverbs 17:4 - "Wrongdoers eagerly listen to gossip; \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ pay close attention to slander."
	* Reflection: What you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, you promote. If you allow gossip, you are promoting it.
3. **Gossip Hurts the Speaker:**
	* Proverbs 25:9-10 - "When arguing with your neighbor, don't betray another person's secret. Others may accuse you of gossip and you will never regain your good \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_."
	* Reflection: How does gossip affect your reputation?

**Practical Steps to Avoid Gossip:**

1. **Guard Your Ears:**
	* Ask, "Why are you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ me this?" or "Have you had a chance to talk to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ about this?"
	* Reference: Matthew 18 - Jesus teaches to go \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and speak to the person you have a problem with.
2. **Close Your Mouth:**
	* Proverbs 21:23 - "Watch your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, keep your mouth \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and you will stay out of trouble."
	* Memorize: "Watch your tongue, keep your mouth shut, stay out of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_."
3. **Treat Others as You Want to Be Treated:**
	* Luke 6:31 - "Do to others as you would like them to do to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_."

**Heart Transformation:**

* **Gossip Claims:** "I am \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because they are weak."
* **Gospel Proclaims:** "I am weak, but He is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_."
* **Jesus' Teaching:** "Out of the overflow of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the mouth speaks."

**Prayer:**

* "Jesus, thank you for dying for me. Forgive me of my \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Transform my heart. Transform my \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Help me to speak \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ over others. Help me to walk in your ways daily. Thank you, Jesus, for dying for me. It's in your name I pray. Amen!"