

“Wrongdoers eagerly listen to gossip; liars pay close attention to slander.” Proverbs 17:4 NLT

lectio // Proverb 17:1-4

For some gossip is so tasty, so sticky, like nectar to a bee. For others, they have no problem ignoring gossip, or even better, changing the subject. The non-gossipers have the edge. They're better, smarter. And, they've learned to negotiate one of the banes of humanity - listening and spreading manure. Oh, there may be fractions of truth in there, but only enough to give the dung aires of legitimacy. And slander, whoa, that's a cesspool worth swimming in for gossipers. King Jimmy's version calls it “a naughty tongue,” English Standard Version calls it a “mischievous tongue.” I feel like over the years I have succumbed to gossip far more than when I was younger. When I was young, I was vehemently against it and did my best to ignore it or even call it out when I heard it. But now, along with my need to tell stories, it becomes a battle not to use information differently. I have to guard against gossip now that I've become susceptible to it. And, I have to stay away from the sweet, sticky smells of its allure.

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Dad,

I've already complained too much about the weaknesses of my humanity and how tiring it becomes fighting against the constant, gravitational pull of sin in my life. However, it can never be an excuse for poor behavior or certainly not a reason to be disobedient. So, I do ask for your help in guarding my own tongue so my words do not become a part of spreading poop around in the lives of people I care about.

Thank you.

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root