

# “Love Lifted Me Recovery Ministries”

## Favorite Proverbs Bible Study - Part 2

### Proverbs 26:17-28 Lesson #14

\*\*INSTRUCTIONS: Read the entire section of Scripture in Proverbs before starting to look up the other Scripture verses and filling in the blanks. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to give you understanding as you read God's word. Most Scriptures are from the New King James Version.

17-19 **He who passes by and MEDDLES in a QUARREL not his own** is like one who takes a dog by the ears. Like a madman who throws firebrands, arrows and death, is **the man who DECEIVES his NEIGHBOR, and says, “I was only JOKING!”**

• **Ephesians 5:4** “Neither \_\_\_\_\_, nor \_\_\_\_\_, nor coarse jesting (joking), which are not fitting, but rather \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.”

• **II Timothy 2:16** “But shun (turn away from) profane (impure, filthy) and \_\_\_\_\_, for they will increase to \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Definition: “He who passes by and MEDDLES in a QUARREL not his own”** – This is a warning NOT to get involved with someone else's troubles, arguments or fights. We have enough troubles of our own, and **getting in the middle of someone else's fight will only bring more trouble.** This is not talking about helping someone in NEED, such as giving to the poor, but means **not putting yourself in the middle of their fight or argument.** When it says here “like one who takes a dog by the ears,” dogs were not usually kept as pets in those days, but would just run wild, so to grab a wild dog by his ears, or any part of his body, was to **get yourself ATTACKED and get a serious DOG BITE.**

• **Titus 3:9** “But \_\_\_\_\_ disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings (arguments) about the law; for they are unprofitable and \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Definition: “The man who DECEIVES his NEIGHBOR, and says, ‘I was only JOKING!’”** – As Christians, we should be careful what we say and do in the matter of JOKING. It's okay to say a funny joke, but the Bible warns us not to do “coarse jesting” (dirty jokes), and not to do anything that would HURT someone's FEELINGS (that would not be KIND), here in Proverbs we are warned that **PLAYING TRICKS on someone and then saying “I was only joking”** can cause a lot of trouble and BAD feelings between neighbors and even friends.

• **II Timothy 2:23** “But avoid \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ disputes, knowing that they generate \_\_\_\_\_.”

20-22 Where there is no wood, the **fire** goes out; and **where there is no TALEBEARER, strife ceases.** As charcoal is to burning coals, and wood to **fire**, so is a CONTENTIOUS man to kindle strife. **The words of a talebearer** are like tasty trifles, and they go down into the inmost body.

• **James 3:6** “And the \_\_\_\_\_ is a \_\_\_\_\_, a world of iniquity. The \_\_\_\_\_ is so set among our \_\_\_\_\_ that it \_\_\_\_\_ the whole \_\_\_\_\_, and sets on \_\_\_\_\_ the course of nature; and it is set on \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Definition: “Where there is NO TALEBEARER, strife ceases”** – A talebearer is a tattle-tale or GOSSIP. Gossiping (also called “evil speaking” in the Bible) carries with it your prideful judgment of the person you are gossiping about, when only God can judge their mind, heart or motives. Jesus said we must not judge according to outward appearance, but to JUDGE with RIGHTEOUS judgment. This is

the only kind of “judging” we are allowed to do. **If we see something that is WRONG and a SIN** according to God’s word, **we are CERTAINLY allowed to JUDGE** that thing as being SINFUL and WRONG. If we see a “brother” (fellow Christian) committing a sin, we are to go PRIVATELY to that brother and try to restore him to a godly lifestyle (I John 5:16; Galatians 6:1-2; Matthew 18:15; I Corinthians 5:1-13). According to James 4:11-12, the kind of “judging” we are NOT to do is the kind that involves **“speaking evil” of another person, which is GOSSIP**. If you do not have all the facts, or if you are attributing certain MOTIVES to what a person does, you are NOT judging righteously, but are GOSSIPING. **Only God can know the MOTIVES of a person’s heart**, and most of the time, we DO NOT have all the facts.

• **I Samuel 16:7** “But the Lord said to Samuel, ‘Do not look at his \_\_\_\_\_ or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for \_\_\_\_\_ sees \_\_\_\_\_ as man sees, for \_\_\_\_\_ looks at the \_\_\_\_\_ appearance, but the \_\_\_\_\_ looks at the \_\_\_\_\_.’”

• **Ephesians 4:29-31** “Let no \_\_\_\_\_ proceed out of your \_\_\_\_\_, but what is \_\_\_\_\_ for necessary \_\_\_\_\_, that it may impart \_\_\_\_\_ to the hearers. And do not \_\_\_\_\_ the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all \_\_\_\_\_, wrath, \_\_\_\_\_, clamor, and all \_\_\_\_\_ be put away from you, with all malice.”

• **Psalms 39:1** “I said, ‘I will guard my ways, lest I \_\_\_\_\_ with my \_\_\_\_\_; I will restrain my \_\_\_\_\_ with a muzzle, while the wicked are before me.’”

23-26 **Fervent LIPS with a wicked heart** are like earthenware covered with silver dross. **He who HATES disguises it with his LIPS**, and lays up **deceit within himself**; when he speaks kindly, **do NOT BELIEVE him, for there are seven ABOMINATIONS in his heart**; though his HATRED is covered by deceit, his WICKEDNESS will be revealed before the whole congregation.

• **Psalms 34:13** “Keep your \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_, and your \_\_\_\_\_ from speaking \_\_\_\_\_ (dishonesty, deceit).”

**Definition: “He who HATES disguises it with his LIPS”** – These verses in Proverbs show us that **the person who is wicked and full of HATRED may disguise it with his words, but he will eventually be found out**, because what is in his HEART will come out in his WORDS. We see from these Scriptures how powerful a weapon our words (mouth, LIPS and tongue) can be. Our words can be used by God to bring blessing to others, **or our mouth can be “set on fire by hell” and totally used by the devil to cause destruction**. Do you remember, when you were a kid, saying that “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me”? We all probably said that little rhyme, but it is not really true - WORDS really DO hurt us! God’s word has a lot to say about the POWER of the tongue - our words - both to hurt and to heal. You may know firsthand the power of someone’s words to hurt you: the words of a parent who said you were not wanted, or that you “ruined” their life; the words of other children making fun of you when you were little; the words of other teenagers saying you were ugly, or you couldn’t join their group; the words of a parent or teacher saying you would never amount to anything, or you were just a “screw-up.” Words have the power to destroy self esteem, or **to build up and encourage**. Your own words have the power to shape the rest of your life. You can repeat the words of those who have hurt you or abused you, you can repeat the words of the devil as he plants temptations in your mind, or you can repeat the words of God! Just know that whatever “seed” you plant by the words you speak will bring forth a harvest “after their own kind”. **If you speak CORRUPT words**, it goes right back to Galatians 6:8, “For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.” Ephesians 4:30 also tells us that the **corrupt and negative words we speak GRIEVE the Holy Spirit**. Jesus said, **“The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life”**

(John 6:63). If you speak **the words of Jesus, godly words, words full of grace**, you will be sowing seeds of life and grace and will reap a harvest of blessing, in your own life, and in the lives of those who hear you.

•**Proverbs 12:13-14** “The \_\_\_\_\_ is ensnared by the \_\_\_\_\_ of his \_\_\_\_\_, but the righteous will come through trouble. A man will be \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ by the fruit of his \_\_\_\_\_, and the recompense of a man’s hands will be rendered to him.”

•**Proverbs 13:2-3** “A man shall eat well by the \_\_\_\_\_ of his \_\_\_\_\_, but the soul of the \_\_\_\_\_ feeds on \_\_\_\_\_. He who \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_ preserves his \_\_\_\_\_, but he who opens wide his \_\_\_\_\_ shall have destruction.”

•**Proverbs 18:20-21** “A man’s stomach shall be satisfied from the \_\_\_\_\_ of his \_\_\_\_\_, and from the produce of his \_\_\_\_\_ he shall be filled.”

•**Matthew 12:34-37** “..... For out of the abundance of the \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ speaks. A good man out of the \_\_\_\_\_ treasure of his \_\_\_\_\_ brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the \_\_\_\_\_ treasure brings forth \_\_\_\_\_ things. But I say to you that for every idle \_\_\_\_\_ men may \_\_\_\_\_, they will give account of it in the day of \_\_\_\_\_. For by your \_\_\_\_\_ you will be justified, and by your \_\_\_\_\_ you will be \_\_\_\_\_.”

•**James 3:5-6** “Even so the \_\_\_\_\_ is a \_\_\_\_\_ member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little \_\_\_\_\_ kindles! And the \_\_\_\_\_ is a \_\_\_\_\_, a world of iniquity. The \_\_\_\_\_ is so set among our members that it \_\_\_\_\_ the whole \_\_\_\_\_, and sets on \_\_\_\_\_ the course of nature; and it is set on \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Definition: “Do NOT BELIEVE him, for there are seven ABOMINATIONS in his heart”** – This does not mean a literal list of seven things that are an abomination. This was a common way of expressing something, such as in Proverbs 6:16-19 where it says, “These six things the Lord HATES, **yes, SEVEN are an ABOMINATION to Him.**” Remember, an abomination is something that is DISGUSTING and EVIL, so if these things are disgusting to God, the people who do them are in big trouble. The wicked person here has these disgusting motives and thoughts in his heart, so do NOT believe him when he speaks kindly, because it is not true.

27-28 **Whoever DIGS a PIT will FALL into it**, and he who rolls a stone will have it roll back on him. A lying tongue hates those who are crushed by it, and a flattering mouth works ruin.

•**Psalm 35:7-8** “For without cause they have \_\_\_\_\_ their \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ in a \_\_\_\_\_, which they have \_\_\_\_\_ without cause for my \_\_\_\_\_. Let \_\_\_\_\_ come upon him unexpectedly, and let his \_\_\_\_\_ that he has \_\_\_\_\_ catch \_\_\_\_\_; into that very \_\_\_\_\_ let him \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Definition: “Whoever DIGS a PIT will FALL into it”** – This is not talking about a literal pit for a practical reason, or digging a ditch for water, **it’s talking about people who devise WICKED plots and SCAMS to HURT other people.** Solomon is using the example of a person who sets a net to catch a bird or small animal, or digs a pit as a trap for a larger animal to fall into, when they are hunting for animals to kill for food. **The DEVIL and his people SET TRAPS for innocent people to fall into**, but God will see to it that they will fall into their OWN PITS and be caught in their OWN NETS, and **their evil plans will backfire on them eventually.**

•**Proverbs 6:16-19** “These six things the Lord \_\_\_\_\_, yes, seven are an abomination to Him: a proud look, a \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, hands that shed innocent blood, a

\_\_\_\_\_ that devises \_\_\_\_\_ , feet that are swift in running to evil, a  
\_\_\_\_\_ witness who speaks \_\_\_\_\_, and one who sows discord among brethren.”