
Words of Truth

“Just Between You, Me, And The Fence Post”

By: Brian A. Yeager

The title of this article is a saying I have heard many times. I think I have even used it, in foolish ignorance, as well. Our culture has many sayings that are commonly repeated without much thought. God does not want us to just repeat these thoughtless sayings. In fact, He says the following: *“He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction... The heart of the righteous studieth to answer: but the mouth of the wicked poureth out evil things... The heart of the wise teacheth his mouth, and addeth learning to his lips... Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles... For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile”* (Proverbs 13:3, Proverbs 15:28, Proverbs 16:23, Proverbs 21:23, and I Peter 3:10).

We all get the idea that is being conveyed when someone says that something is between “you, me, and the fence post”. We understand that this person is saying that something you or they are saying is going to be kept secret. It is not wrong to keep something secret from the ears of men (Proverbs 11:13), providing that a soul will not be lost in the meantime (Matthew 18:15-17). In fact, those who reveal secrets are to be avoided (Proverbs 20:19). These types of people cause harm (Proverbs 18:8 and Proverbs 26:20-22).

What is forgotten in statements, such as the one we are talking about in this article, is that God is always listening. For some reason, this is something some people easily forget. Others, they never want to even acknowledge this truth at all. However, whether you remember or not, God is listening to what we say. This is true even when we say it quietly. Therefore, nothing said is just between two parties and surrounding objects.

Unless God Is The Fence Post, The Saying Is Wrong

If we are not careful, we can forget that God knows everything we say and do. Let us look at some Scriptures that will remind us of this truth: *“Shall not God search this out? for he knoweth the secrets of the heart... O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compasses my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether. Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it. Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea... The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good... Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD...”*

Because they have committed villany in Israel, and have committed adultery with their neighbours' wives, and have spoken lying words in my name, which I have not commanded them; even I know, and am a witness, saith the LORD... Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do" (Psalms 44:21, Psalms 139:1-9, Proverbs 15:3, Jeremiah 23:24, Jeremiah 29:23, and Hebrews 4:13).

We could have looked at many more Scriptures than we did, but the point is clear. God does know what you're saying at all times. There is no place in existence where you can hide from God. It is foolish to even think such a thing (Isaiah 29:15). The fence post cannot hide what you are saying from God. To take that to the next step, even those secret words you think you're speaking are going to be brought into judgment.

God Is Going To Judge Us For All Things We Say

Consider what the Scriptures say about God judging our words: *"I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings... O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned... To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him" (Jeremiah 17:10, Matthew 12:34-37, and Jude 15).*

If you lie, God will judge you for it (Revelation 21:8). If you use filthy communication, God will send His wrath upon you (Colossians 3:6-8). If you pray to be heard of men, God will judge you for it (Matthew 6:5). We could go on and on making the point clearer, but if it is not clear already there is nothing else to be said that would do the job. We all have to think before we speak. The more we speak the more we have an opportunity to say the wrong things (Proverbs 10:19). For some, even many, this means speaking less is the best way to go (Ecclesiastes 5:2).

Conclusion

Whether we say something or think something, God knows all about it (I Samuel 16:7, I Chronicles 28:9, Psalms 7:9, Psalms 33:13-15, John 2:23-25, I Corinthians 4:5, and Revelation 2:23). We should be spending our lives to ensure that we will spend eternity with the Lord rather than losing our souls to eternal damnation (John 5:28-29). Before you say or do something, be sure it is right with God first (Colossians 3:17 and I Peter 4:11). In conclusion, consider these inspired words: *"I said, I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue: I will keep my mouth with a bridle, while the wicked is before me... For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. **So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty**" (Psalms 39:1 and James 2:10-12).*