

## ***Can You Be Trusted?***

*Loyalty and trust are absent from many of our lives today, why? A long-standing friendship between two men was shattered when one betrayed a secret the other confided in him. Information that was considered strictly personal was divulged to other people. The betrayed man was stunned, heartbroken...left in shock. A friend he thought he could trust turned out to be a traitor!*

*How highly do you value a confidence? How deep does your loyalty run? Can you be trusted...relied upon to keep a private matter to yourself, being entrusted with someone else's reputation? Do we conscientiously guard the personal secrets others confide in us? When friends and associates bare their innermost feelings and seek your advice, do you resolve to keep it confidential, classified as personal?*

*Let's reverse the situation. How many of your friends can you trust with your deepest secrets? Can you be honest and open with them about your personal hang-ups, problems and frustrations, knowing they will not betray you? Or do you fear they would react with shock and disgust, passing judgment and sharing the confided information with others? Even among our closest associates, it is difficult to find a friend that we can trust. We hear gossip and rumors almost every day. Loyalties are betrayed and thrown away, personal reputations blatantly smeared through gossip behind their backs.*

***This condition is prophesied:*** *This immoral behavior in our society has come to be an accepted way of life. We seem to have lost the integrity that true friendship demands. The Bible forewarned that this condition would prevail at the close of this age: that traitors and untrustworthy people would abound.*

Matthew 24:4~13 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for **all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.** For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. **All these are the beginning of sorrows.** Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall many be **offended**, and shall **betray one another**, and shall **hate one another**. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

2 Timothy 3:1~5 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, **trucebreakers, false accusers (slanderers)**, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, **traitors**, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: **from such turn away.**

***Why trust is so rare:*** *Why are trusting friendships so scarce in the world today? A principle reason may be the "loose-tongue syndrome," or the callous disregard for the reputation of others. Society in general gives little thought to the damage inflicted on people when our gossiping imposes damage upon one's good name. For example; have you noticed how often a conversation that begins on an uplifting note soon changes into one of destructive slander? Opinions are carelessly expressed. Suspicions are freely voiced without proof at the cost of someone's personal reputation. This is not something new. We can see the same disregard for one's personal status displayed in the Book of Job where accusations move past judging Job onto condemning him without cause.*

James 4:11 **Speak not evil one of another**, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge.

Proverbs 6:16~19 These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, **a lying tongue**, and hands that shed innocent blood, **An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations**, feet that be swift in running to mischief, **A false witness that speaketh lies**, and **he that soweth discord among brethren**.

*Of the seven specific things Yah says He hates, three have to do with gossip and slander. One of the most destructive sins involves exposing past mistakes and weaknesses committed by those who have revealed and repented over them in the process of trying to overcome them. Probably nothing more humiliating to a person being genuinely repentant is having his past life brought up and discussed (judged) by others who will not leave one's sins buried under the blood of Yahshua our Messiah.*

**Yah admonishes us to forgive:** This is why Paul gives a warning to the Corinthians to forgive and comfort the man who was put out of the congregation for an immoral act but **was reinstated** after repenting.

2 Corinthians 2:5~11 But if any have caused grief, he hath not grieved me, but in part: that I may not overcharge you all. Sufficient to such a man is this punishment, which was inflicted of many. So that contrariwise ye ought rather to forgive him, and comfort him, **lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow**. Wherefore I beseech you that ye would **confirm your love toward him**. For to this end also did I write, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be obedient in all things. To whom ye forgive anything, I forgive also: for if I forgave anything, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ; **Lest Satan should get an advantage of us:** for we are not ignorant of his devices.

Mark 11:24~26 Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them. And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, **forgive him**, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. **But if you do not forgive**, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.

Matthew 7:1~2 Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what **judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged:** and with what **measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again**.

*Note: The contrast of judgment and its measure refers to the punishment given, verses judging, the discernment of right and wrong. You get what you give. True love covers sin because love in this sense can only think the best about others, giving them the benefit of the doubt. Instead of babbling their sinful deeds to the world, true friends will do all within their power to rescue the stumbling neighbor from his plight.*

Proverbs 17:9 He that cover's a transgression **seek's love**; but he that repeateth a matter **separateth** very friends.

Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

*True love will not add to the shame and disgrace by others through the spreading of rumors given to gossip. When we betray the trust of someone who is ensnared by an evil habit, we are not guiltless. Yah's word brands us as a traitor, a talebearer, who becomes fixed in greater peril than the one whom you are accusing.*

Proverbs 18:8 "The words of a **talebearer** are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly."

Proverbs 16:28 “A perverse man **sows strife**, and a **whisperer separates** the best of friends.”

***Talebearing:** Talebearing is another word for harmful gossip: telling of people’s juicy tidbits, defaming one’s reputation. Such talk does not serve the cause of peace nor build bridges of goodwill. Instead, they sow the seeds of discord and create division. Yah commands us to speak evil of no one. In principle, this means it’s just as destructive to pass on gossip as being the transgressor. We must undertake to make the theme of our lives one of truth, being seen as dependable friends raised to be in favor with Yah and man.*

Titus 3:1~8 Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, **to be ready to every good work, To speak evil of no man**, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men. For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Spirit; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God **might be careful to maintain good works**. These things are good and profitable unto men.

***Importance of trustworthiness:** A good friend that may have good character and reputation will fail in that role if he or she cannot maintain a trust. By habitually divulging confidential information, that so called friend will never be considered trustworthy. On a grander scale, Yah is also looking for men and women who allow His Spirit to develop in them even higher standards and attitudes. Respect is the highest quality of character Yah treasures. Notice the description of the kind of person who will stand before Yah and be blessed.*

Psalms 15:1~5 Yah, who may abide in your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill? He who walks uprightly, and works righteousness, and speaks the truth in his heart; he who does not **backbite** with his tongue, nor **does evil to his neighbor**, nor **does he take up a reproach against his friend**; in whose eyes a vile person is despised, but he honors those you fear Yah; he who swears to his own hurt and does not change; he who does not put out his money at usury, nor does he take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things shall never be moved.

*We must strive to become this kind of person by deeply examining our attitudes. Are we guilty of the very things we distrust in others? Perchance the fears we often experience come from our own guilty feeling arising from our own habits of being untrustworthy? Let’s search our own hearts. Do we put others down simply to minimize our own shortcomings in order to lift ourselves above them? But the joke is on us, for we get what we give...true justice! When we see a friend who is weak and sinning, the Bible instructs us to go to him privately, in a spirit of meekness, and try to help him. We should not want to ridicule or to destroy his dignity.*

Matthew 18:15~17 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault **between thee and him alone**; if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. **But if** he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three **witnesses** every word may be established. And **if** he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but **if** he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.

Proverbs 17:17 **A friend loveth at all times**, and a brother is born for adversity.

Proverbs 18: 24 A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and **there is a friend** that sticketh closer than a brother.

*Note the contrast between Satan our great adversary who wants to constantly accuse us before Yah day and night. Satan's primary aim remains to destroy our character. Such an aim is in stark, negative contrast to Yahshua's demonstrative, unending love for us.*

Hebrews 8:12 for I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will **"I remember no more."**

Psalms 103:10~13 He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he **removed our transgressions from us?** Like as a father pitied (*has pity over*) his children, so the LORD pitied them that fear him.

Ephesians 4:23~32 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Wherefore **putting away lying**, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil. Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. **Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth**, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all **bitterness**, and **wrath**, and **anger**, and **clamour**, and **evil speaking**, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

*If we are not on guard, we'll find ourselves serving Satan and unknowingly doing harm to those around us. We all have found ourselves guilty of such laxity... Yah, please forgive us.*

*Those who have few things to attend to are great babblers;  
Thus the less men think, the more they talk*

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