

Sermon Notes – July 13, 2025

## **Hooked**

Week 1: The Bait of Gossip

Pastor Curtis Gudrie

**SCRIPTURE:** Proverbs 26:20-22 NLT; Ephesians 4:29

<sup>20</sup>Fire goes out without wood, and quarrels disappear when gossip stops. <sup>21</sup>A quarrelsome person starts fights as easily as hot embers light charcoal or fire lights wood. <sup>22</sup>Rumors are dainty morsels that sink deep into one's heart.

<sup>29</sup>Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."

### **1) THE LURE OF GOSSIP**

- What is gossip? - New Testament Greek word, "**psithuristes**" meaning "**a whisperer**." One who whispers behind backs with the intention of hurting another (speaking evil/slandering) or sharing secrets (Rom. 1:29-30).

- "A gossip is one who pours his poison into your ears by whispering." – F.L. Godet

- When we gossip, we speak evil about people. It is speaking about someone in a way that defames, dishonours or otherwise hurts their character.

- The Temptation of the Whisper: Gossip is tempting to us; it appears to be a "juicy and tasty morsel or treat." Our curiosity and desire for *knowledge and power* lures us in, until we are **HOOKED** and on the **LINE**!

### **2) THE HOOK GOES IN DEEP** (What does gossip do to us and what does God say about it?)

- Gossip infiltrates and spreads like a hard-to-kill cancer to our innermost parts – contaminating and affecting our hearts, minds and souls and destroying the lifeline of our relationships.

- Gossip is like a treble hook, it always involves at least 3 people: the speaker, hearer, and the one being gossiped about. It is the Devil's scheme to spread hurt, disunity, and destruction.

- A gossip doesn't share the "juicy" news, instead they reveal the wounds and condition of their heart.

- The Deadly Dangers of Gossip: When we gossip, we:

**1)** Destroy confidence and trust (Prov. 20:19; 11:13);

**2)** Cause tension and issues with friendships/relationships (Prov. 16:28);

**3)** Destroy reputations, including our own (Prov. 25:8-10);

**4)** Distance ourselves from God via disobedience (Lev. 19:16);

**5)** Act like Satan - the accuser, and slanderer (Rev. 12:10).

- We are to be encouragers and "hook" removers (Eph. 4:29; Philippians 4:8).

### 3) GETTING UNHOOKED

- How to get unhooked from gossip:

**1) Don't Take the Bait:** Stop listening to it. Gossip needs an audience; suffocate the fire.

**2) Be Positive/Be an Encourager:** Encourage instead of slander. Say something positive about a person being gossiped about – it will stop or refocus the conversation (Phil. 4:8).

**3) Stop Gossiping, Start Praying:** Ask Holy Spirit to deal with your heart first – as offence or hurt will spread to your tongue. Don't tell others; tell God. Instead of sharing, pray for the person.

**4) Change Your Earpiece:** "Surround yourself with people who talk about vision and ideas not people." – Dave Gargano.

**5) Remember God's Opinion:** Remember and focus on how God feels about gossip. Remember who we imitate when we partake in gossip! Be imitators of Christ, not Satan!