TODAY'S ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome by: Don Taylor / Opening Prayer by: Don Lynn
Morning Assembly Song Leader: Bobby Rader

#396 No Not One
#134 the Lord's My Shepherd

Scripture Reading by: Matthew Girard
#383 Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross

Communion Devotional by: David Smith
Lord's Supper and Contribution

#144 O Worship the King
Sermon: "Approach with Caution"
Ecclesiastes 5:1-7

#912 Burdens Are Lifted at Calvary
#611 Heavenly Sunlight
Closing Prayer by: James Scott

Our Small Groups meet tonight.
Robert Ward's group will meet tonight at the building at 5:00 p.m.

Other Opportunities For Spiritual Growth

Sunday: 9:00am — Bible Study Classes, 10:00am — Worship, 5:00pm — Worship
Wednesday: 6:30pm — Bible Study Classes

Aug. 27, 2023

"Stand Firm in…Liberty"

Galatians 5:1

A Little Bird Told Me

Even in your thoughts, do not curse the king,
nor in your bedroom curse the rich,
for a bird of the air will carry your voice,
or some winged creature tell the matter.

Ecclesiastes 10:20

Have you ever wondered how people find out things? Statements we made and actions we took which we thought would never be known suddenly become public knowledge; what we thought was a secret is published abroad.

We have an expression for that mysterious process that we sometimes use: "a little bird told me." I was reading through Ecclesiastes and noted the verse above, and it reminded me of that little idiom. It turns out that it is most likely the origin of the expression.

In reality, most people talk too much about too many things. Often, there is a correlation between our conversations and our knowledge. We tend to talk the most about those subjects that we know the least.

Beyond that, perhaps our favorite topic to discuss is the self. Sometimes the conversation will wander to someone else, but too often only for the fleeting moment it takes to cut him or her down to size, thinking it will build up our own ego. If we knew that what we say would be told to those we talk about, most of us would likely say a lot less.

I doubt if any of us have said many things about someone else that they ultimately do not know we said. Just because a person does not retaliate, does not attack us for our mean disposition and acid tongue, does not mean they are unaware. A little group is seen huddled together talking in a very low voice. Someone approaches and they scatter like birds before the hunter, vowing that the things that were said must be kept secret. Be assured that they won't. There is a leak somewhere. In fact, some people's idea of keeping a secret is making sure you only tell it to one person at a time. You will often find the leak at the very place you did not expect. You will be shocked at first, but it will be a valuable lesson to you. Then you will appreciate the verse cited at the beginning of this article.

Family News & Notes

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

Our Sick

Robert Modisette is on hospice care.

Lon Hobbs is in Liberty Health Care room 104.

Jerry Mast will be having a valve replacement on Sept. 6th.

Winston Leifeister is on hospice care.

Continued Prayers
(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Steve Ward, Oscar Cantu, Caitlin Smith, Virginia Cole, Ken Coleman, Joe Edd Stifflemire, Donna Wilson, Patricia Prater, Edna Semien, Wilson Semien, Betty Spencer, Willie Spencer, James Wilson, Jo Ella McKewen, Kelly McCain

Shut Ins
(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Jim Smith, Winona Angelle, Myrtle Sheffield, Catherine Parker, Peggy McIntosh, Lois Watts, Willo Dean Ellis

Our Missionaries

Aaron & Marisa Bailey in Montepuez, Mozambique , Rod Kyle in the South Pacific

Upcoming Activities

Elders, Minister meet Monday, Aug. 28th at 5:30 p.m.

We will have a Blood Drive on Monday, Aug. 28th from 4-8 p.m. in the fellowship room. A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board.

We will have a Houston Food Bank truck on Tuesday, Sept. 5th at 8:00 a.m.

Baptisms

Ricky Lucas and Ember Ainsworth were baptized Monday night.

Elders	Deacons	Minister
Ken Coleman	Zach Arthur	Bryant Perkins
Bobby Rader	Daniel Balch	
Don Taylor	Danny Balch	
Robert Ward	Walden David	
	Gus Tristan	

"Stand Firm in…Liberty"
is the weekly bulletin of the Liberty Church of Christ 3201 North Main, Liberty Texas 77575
Office Phone Number (936) 336-2213; Fax (936) 334-8280;
Minister's (Bryant Perkins) Cell Phone Number (903)407-5737
Website: libertycofc.org Facebook page: Liberty Church of Christ

Why do people often make unkind statements about others? We could psychoanalyze it, we could look at a number of motivations. But for Christians, it fundamentally comes down to a lack of respect for Jesus. Do you remember the picture of the judgement in **Matthew 25?** Jesus separates the sheep from the goats based on the way that they treated or mistreated the vulnerable, poor, and oppressed in life. And he makes the principle underlying that distinction clear: *Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.* **(Mt 25:40).** I suggest that the principle applies more widely than just our actions toward the needy: do you think you can say hard and harsh things about the followers of Christ, about the church, about your brothers and sisters in Christ without including Jesus in the very statement made?

These actions help no one. They do not help ourselves or the church. On the contrary, we do great harm to ourselves, to the church, to the person talked about, and to the Lord. I think about what James writes in his letter:

> *If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell.* **(James 3:3-6)**

Nothing does more harm than a tongue out of control.

Yes, the birds talk. What we say about others will get to them. Most people who have had cruel, snide things said about them find out what was said and why—and the name and address of the person who said it for good measure. Very embarrassing indeed. What a price to pay! Is it worth it?

Bryant Perkins