

It All Comes Out in the End

Text: [Psalms 41:5-7 HCSB](#) My enemies speak maliciously about me: "When will he die and be forgotten?" (6) When one of *them* comes to visit, he speaks deceitfully; he stores up evil in his heart; he goes out and talks. (7) All who hate me whisper together about me; they plan to harm me.

All of us have, from time to time, been on the receiving side of slander and gossip. It hurts, doesn't it? It's psychologically painful and spiritually traumatizing to think that people are going to believe bad things about you that aren't based in fact. David knew all about being the victim of *lashon hara* (evil speech). Unfortunately he wasn't the only one.

Hannah's spiritual fervor was mistaken for worldly carnality.

- [1 Samuel 1:12-16 HCSB](#) While she was praying in the LORD's presence, Eli watched her lips. (13) Hannah was speaking to herself, and although her lips were moving, her voice could not be heard. Eli thought she was drunk (14) and scolded her, "How long are you going to be drunk? Get rid of your wine!" (15) "No, my lord," Hannah replied. "I am a woman with a broken heart. I haven't had any wine or beer; I've been pouring out my heart before the LORD. (16) Don't think of me as a wicked woman; I've been praying from the depth of my anguish and resentment."

Even Jesus, the perfect, sinless Son of God, was falsely accused and abused.

- [Matthew 26:59-61 HCSB](#) The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false testimony against Jesus so they could put Him to death. (60) But they could not find any, even though many false witnesses came forward. Finally, two who came forward (61) stated, "This man said, 'I can demolish God's sanctuary and rebuild it in three days.'"
- [Mark 14:57-59 HCSB](#) Some stood up and were giving false testimony against Him, stating, (58) "We heard Him say, 'I will demolish this sanctuary made by *human* hands, and in three days I will build another not made by hands.'" (59) Yet their testimony did not agree even on this.

When He asked for evidence of His wrongdoing, His persecutors did not reply with logic or fact but with increased abuse and false imprisonment.

- [John 18:23-24 HCSB](#) "If I have spoken wrongly," Jesus answered him, "give evidence about the wrong; but if rightly, why do you hit Me?" (24) Then Annas sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Like Job we cry out:

- [Job 31:35 HCSB](#) If only I had someone to hear my case! Here is my signature; let the Almighty answer me. Let my Opponent compose *His* indictment.

To the slanderer a warning

Allow me first to speak to those who gossip and slander their neighbor. Moses warns the gossip:

- [Exodus 23:1 HCSB](#) "You must not spread a false report. Do not join the wicked to be a malicious witness.
- [Leviticus 19:16 HCSB](#) You must not go about spreading slander among your people; you must not jeopardize your neighbor's life; I am the LORD.

Through Habakkuk the Lord warned the wicked slanderers:

- [Habakkuk 2:10-12 HCSB](#) You have planned shame for your house by wiping out many peoples and sinning against your own self. (11) For the stones will cry out from the wall, and the rafters will answer them from the woodwork. (12) Woe to him who builds a city with bloodshed and founds a town with injustice!

To the victim some encouragement

The Master encouraged us:

- [Matthew 5:11-12 HCSB](#) "Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and falsely say every kind of evil against you because of Me. (12) Be glad and rejoice, because your reward is great in heaven. For that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

And

- [Matthew 10:26 HCSB](#) "Therefore, don't be afraid of them, since there is nothing covered that won't be uncovered, and nothing hidden that won't be made known.

And

- [Matthew 12:36 HCSB](#) I tell you that on the day of judgment people will have to account for every careless word they speak.

When the apostle Paul sent young pastor Timothy some instruction, he said,

- [1 Timothy 5:24-25 HCSB](#) Some people's sins are evident, going before them to judgment, but *the sins* of others follow them. (25) Likewise, good works are obvious, and those that are not *obvious* cannot remain hidden.

Some people's sins are evident. You can see them as soon as you meet them. These are the sins that we tend to hear sermons about because their easy to identify. These are sins like adultery, fornication, substance abuse or violence. "But", warns Paul, "there are other sins that kind of slink along behind people. They are not as obvious but they cannot remain hidden forever." Sooner or later they will come out.

My grandmother always taught me – "Truth can stand naked". By this she meant that if you are doing what is right, you are dressed in the armor of truth and you need nothing else. The Lord God will make sure that in the end the truth will come out and you will be vindicated. Until then, don't be discouraged by the nay sayers. Be faithful. Don't grow weary in well doing. You will certainly reap if you don't quit.

Suggested Hymn: Jesus Lover of My Soul;