



Spoken in Secret


Therefore, whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in an ear in private rooms will be proclaimed on the housetops. ~ Luke 12:3


Discover the Context

Luke 12:1-12

 Why do you think rumors can spread so quickly at a Christian camp? What should you say if you hear a rumor? Why is unkind speech so dangerous to staff unity? What are some things that can be done to promote positive talk and encouragement?

 “It is too bad that more people are thoughtless than speechless.”
~ anonymous

 It is easy at camp to be off guard when you are with campers or other staff members so much of the time. It can be tempting to say derogatory comments in order to be funny or to be accepted. Have your accountability partner help you keep watch that your words are always spoken in love and with grace.

 Read 1 Peter 2:22-25. What does the gospel have to do with words spoken in secret?

Have you noticed how well the rumor chain can work at camp? Sometimes it doesn't take long at all for juicy news to travel. This can be especially true when you are trying to keep something a secret—perhaps a new-found relationship or something you said about another staff member.

Jesus' reference is that on the Judgment Day everything will be brought out into the open. The secrets you tell your friends, the backbiting, the gossip, and the words you want no one else to hear, will all be revealed on that last day.

However, Jesus doesn't guarantee that those secrets will be revealed only at that time. As Moses said earlier, “Be sure your sin will catch up with you” (Numbers 32:23). Oh, this is so true with the sins of the tongue! It is very easy when you are with certain friends to say things about others that you wouldn't say if they were present. You may not particularly like everyone on staff this year, but that does not give you license to talk about these people in a negative or demeaning manner. Backbiting, gossip, and spreading rumors is sinful. It is devastating to staff unity and effective ministry. What you say may come out later in the summer to be heard by all.

It is fairly simple to avoid the embarrassment of having your lies and gossip revealed. Don't say them in the first place. Well it sounds easy, but it's incredibly hard to do. You need the power of Christ to train yourself to speak only words of encouragement. If you find yourself frustrated or angry with someone, then pray to God and go directly to that person, rather than to someone else to vent your feelings. Commit yourself to never speaking evil of those in authority over you, and certainly never in front of campers. Pray that you will receive God's grace to avoid the temptation of speaking unkindly about anyone so that there won't be much to reveal on the Judgment Day that will surprise you or others. [BHK]