

Proverbs Week #61 (6:16-19)

“There are six things which the LORD hates, yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that run rapidly to evil, a false witness who utters lies, and one who spreads strife among brothers. Prov 6:15-19

We will continue over the next few weeks to look at this passage in more detail. We will consider the practical lessons they teach us. As I said last week, being wise in God’s sight is more than just being able to memorize and recite a list of things He hates.

This week’s family lesson will focus on the second thing that is an abomination to our Creator. We will examine the lying tongue. A lying tongue says things that are not true. It is not the only way we can use our tongue wrongly, but for now I want to focus on the importance of truth.

When we think of being told the truth, it can make a big difference whether or not the subject matter is important to us. Think for a moment about something you want or something you want to do. Think about something that is not just a short-term desire, but something that will take a long time to get. What would happen if you met someone who said they could help you get what you want and after years of trusting the person you found out that they were lying to you? You might say something like, “I can’t believe I trusted this person!” A lying tongue is hateful because it breaks down something that is essential to relationships. Relationships depend a great deal upon trust and trust can be built up or torn down by how truthful we are with our words. If this is true in relationships we have with each other it is even more true when we consider our relationship with God.

Let us take a look at Yeshua teaching in the temple in John 8:26-59. As I read this passage I want you to focus on what the Messiah is saying about truth and the importance of being faithful in how we listen to the truth.

When Yeshua said, *“I have many things to speak and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; and the things which I heard from Him, these I speak to the world”*(8:26) He was speaking to those in the temple about the Father and they did not realize it. Because of this many people believed in Him. Did they really believe in Him? The text says they did, but the account of this teaching does not end there. Yeshua goes on to teach the importance of continuing on in His words. In fact, if you continue on in His words it will show whose seed you are (or whose family you are a member of). Those who were listening to the Messiah’s message were told some shocking news. He said they were just like their father the devil.

I think this teaching strikes at the heart of why God hates a lying tongue. Our commitment to the One who is Truth and our receiving and continuing to live in His truth is a family matter. In God’s assessment of the world there are only two families. One family has received the Truth and the other family rejects it. Everyone is a member of one family or the other.

“You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him.” John 8:44

Contrast this statement to an earlier statement in the Gospel of John:

“There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.” John 1:9-13

The first lesson we all must learn and remain faithful to is receiving the truth which God speaks. As those who have received His truth and are a part of His family, the remedy to not having a tongue that our Father will hate is to remember to speak only what is true. We need to continue to grow in wisdom so that we will also learn to speak the truth in love. Just saying words that are true does not automatically make one wise. *“Like a thorn bush in a drunkard’s hand is a proverb in the mouth of a fool.” Prov 26:9* May God continue to be gracious to us and grant us wisdom as we continue to study His truth.