52 Days of Building a Second Wall with the Word and Wisdom

**Turn my Eyes from Looking at Worthless Things**

Day 21 – June 3, 2013

**Psalm 119:37** “Turn away my eyes from looking at vanity, and revive me in Your way.”

The Hebrew word for **vanity** in this scripture is ***shav-*** worthless, useless, false, evil, idolatrous, or destructive.

This might be a scripture we might easily pass over because we think, ‘we have our eyes on the Lord, not on evil or false things’. The Lord put a heavy burden on our hearts for this scripture, and we pray you will let Him **search your hearts** as He has ours; to remove the false ways in our lives, **so we can walk in His way**.

Webster’s Dictionary defines **vanity** as: emptiness; want of substance to satisfy desire; uncertainty; fruitless desire or endeavor; trifling labor that produces no good; untruth; empty pleasure; vain pursuit; idle show; unsubstantial enjoyment.

The Lord has given us eyes to see the things all around us, and He has put in us a curiosity for our environment. These are wonderful gifts that the Lord has given to us. But these gifts have been misused by mankind since the beginning of time. We want to see more and we want to know more. Think what happened in the garden. Eve was tempted to know more, to see more than what was in front of her. This urge was obviously in Adam too, because he ate also.

**Genesis 3:6** “When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a **delight to the eyes**, and that the tree was **desirable to make one wise**, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.”

In our first week we saw in **Psalm 19:13** “Also keep back Your servant from **presumptuous (zud – arrogant, proud, presume) sins***;* Let them not rule over me; Then I will be blameless, And I shall be acquitted of **great transgression**.” (revolt, rebellion, sin)

**Presumptuous**: Supposition of the truth or real existence of something without direct or positive proof of the fact, but grounded on circumstantial or probable evidence which entitles it to belief. Blind or headstrong confidence.

**Arrogant:** Assuming; making or having the disposition to make exorbitant claims of rank or estimation; giving one's self an undue degree of importance; haughty; conceited.

Man has leta spirit rule over him for too long**;** and this spiritgreatly saddens and burdens the Lord. **This great transgression, this great rebellion against the Lord, is the spirit of voyeurism.**

**Voyeurism** - Nosiness, inquisitiveness, prying, questioning, snooping, curiosity (desire for knowledge, desire to know what is going on), the practice of spying on people, someone who gains pleasure from watching others, especially secretly, a fascinated observer of distressing, sordid, or scandalous events, often watching for sexual satisfaction.

In this definition, we can see a progression from curiosity of things going on in other people’s lives, to sexual perversion. Let’s look at some examples of voyeurism.

The TV shows we watched years ago always seemed to have a **nosy neighbor** wanting to know what was going on in the other person’s life. It was stuck in for comedy because it was so ridiculous the lengths they would go to see into the day to day lives of their neighbors.

**Rubbernecking**: Often when we are driving on the freeways in a large city, traffic comes to a crawl or even a stop for some time. We figure there must be a wreck on our side of the road that is blocking traffic. But after a long time, we get to the flashing lights and see that the wreck is on the other side of the divided highway, not impeding us at all. So why the slow down? Most of the people on our side of the highway want to see what happened. How bad was the crash, can we see the suffering and bleeding people? The more details we can collect as we are crawling past the wreck, the more we can tell people what we saw.

**24/7 news stations:** We as humans have a natural curiosity about the world around us, but when it comes to natural and man-made disasters, and the failures of men, the **spirit of voyeurism takes over and we just have to know what is going on**. Let two fire trucks go by you on the road and how many of you are tempted to follow to see what is going on?

Being informed as to what is generally happening in the world today is a good thing, but our culture has become so ravenous for every single detail, real or supposed, of a news story. With technology, **we want to SEE everything.** How many times do they need to show a picture of a bomb going off maiming people, or a tornado ripping apart a neighborhood? It’s sick, the more gruesome something is, the more we want to watch it and tell others about it.

**Gossip** is mentioned many times in the Bible as a great sin, and even listed as one of the big sins in the last days, the eleventh hour that we are living in.

**2 Timothy 3:3-7** “But realize this, that **in the last days** difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, **malicious gossips**, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; **Avoid such men as these.** For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

**The word gossip in the Greek is diabolos.** Yes, it comes from one of the names of satan. Diabolos means a traducer, someone who propagates a story, keeps it going by changing it little by little. A gossip’s words are often very critical or disparaging of somebody; falsely accusing someone, or slandering them. **A gossip is one who runs from house to house, tattling and telling news. An idle tattler uses many words with little meaning**, to tell tales and to communicate secrets.

This can happen so quickly. In elementary school, we used to play a game where someone would say a sentence, and then it would be whispered in other’s ear, and so on around the room. The sentence was always changed and always much longer. We hear something, and we want to share it, but we want it to sound a little better to the next person, so we add things.

In the spirit of voyeurism, **we want to HEAR everything** that is being said, real or imaginary.

**Celebrity gossip**: This industry makes a fortune off of this spirit. We are fascinated by the unreal lives celebrities lead, the more sinful the better. We know this by the all the atrocious lies plastered on the front covers of magazines. Going through check-out lines at the supermarket, our eyes are bombarded by pictures and words of what is going on in the lives of celebrities. Even if we would never buy one of these magazines, our eyes are still drawn to them. This is a spirit of voyeurism.

**Proverbs 20:19** “**He who goes about as a** **slanderer** (rakiyl - a scandal monger, one traveling about carrying tales, a talebearer) **revels** (galah - to shamelessly uncover) **secrets** (sod - something said in close or intimate conversations), **therefore do not** **associate** (arab - intermix, barter , engage , put your trust) **with a** **gossip”** (words that go into wide open spaces).

When I saw the definition of gossip used in this scripture (**words that go into wide open spaces**), I immediately though of **Facebook,** every word and every picture goes out into the wide open spaces of the cyber world. Why is Facebook so popular? Why does almost everyone have a Facebook account? Why do most products you buy today have a Facebook account? People put things about their lives on their Facebook page to show people what is going on in their life. They in turn can see what is going on in yours and all your “friends” lives. It sounds so good, but it is just the spirit of voyeurism in a convenient and pretty package.

Those are ways we snoop into people’s “real” lives; but the sad thing is, there are **many “pretend or made up” things we spend a great deal of time with as a voyeur.**

Why are **“reality” shows** so popular? Think about it? It is all because we want to see what is going on in the lives of others and if we peek in their windows and stalk them, we will get arrested. All we have to do is sit in our recliner with a remote in our hands, and watch to our hearts content. But the sad thing is, almost all “reality” shows are not real, but we still love them!

Another thing people live precariously through, pretending to be something they are not, is **computer games**. You can experience the “thrill” of warfare, killing and being killed, yet have no link to reality. Stop and think about this, does it make sense that a human being created by God, who is commanded to love others, would get enjoyment out of playing game of killing everyone in sight. This is a spirit of voyeurism to experience the emotions of war and killing without actually doing it.

Why do people like **disaster and horror movies?** Again the spirit of voyeurism is at work in us here. We get a thrill when we see disasters; it turns on something inside of us. We never want to be in a disaster, but we are curious as to what it would be like to go through one.

As if the spirit of voyeurism isn’t bad enough, there is another real problem with these movies. They are getting more and more graphic, more and more outlandish, because **we are desensitized to what we keep seeing and this spirit wants more and more.** Now when someone comes to us with a disaster in their lives, we downplay it because it is not as bad as the last disaster we saw in a movie.

Let’s look at the definition of voyeurism again. It is the practice of spying on people, someone who gains pleasure from watching others, especially secretly, a fascinated observer of distressing, sordid, or scandalous events, often watching for sexual pleasure. **This escalation of voyeurism has led to the most prevalent of sins we see in the church today –** **pornography.** There is such easy access to this today, for both men and women. This sin destroys those who are bound to it and their families; and so many leaders in the church have fallen into adultery, destroying their congregations.

**Please Read this stern warning of God’s wrath.** It applies to all who are controlled by the spirit of voyeurism.

**Romans 1:18** “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who **suppress the truth** in unrighteousness”,

**Romans 1:25** “For they **exchanged the truth of God for a lie**, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.”

**Romans 1:28-32** “And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; **they are gossips, slanderers**, haters of God, insolent, **arrogant**, **boastful, inventors of evil,** disobedient to parents, without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.”

We know this message is convicting because this spirit is an accepted part of our culture today. It is normal, it is accepted, but it is WRONG! **So,** **what do we need to do?**

First, we need to not let this spirit reign in our bodies any longer. Please read **Romans 6:12-14**. And do not let the spirit of condemnation join the party. God is here to forgive our sins and to cleanse us of all unrighteousness

Second, we need to **trust God in all things**. Part of our desire to know everything that is going on around us is us wanting to have some kind of control over things. The more information we have, the more we think we can handle the situations we face. This sounds ridiculous when you say it out loud, but that is the bottom line. **There is so much freedom in letting God know everything, and being content to be on a need to know basis from Him!** We can trust Him thatHe will tell us everything we need to know when we need to know it.

Third, we need to **know and live** **Philippians 4:8-9**.

“Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, **dwell on these things**. The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, **practice these things**, and the God of peace will be with you.”

With so much information at our disposal today, we need to be more diligent than ever to keep our way pure, “by keeping it according to the Word of God”. **Psalm 119:9**

We must always let God guard our hearts and our minds. We must consciously be aware of every word we hear or say; and ask of the Holy Spirit, “Is this true? Is this honorable? Is this right? Is this pure? …” Yes, this is laborious, but it is so worth it. We have been under the spell of this spirit our whole lives and for many of us this was also a passed down iniquity. It will take time and it will take discipline, but it can be defeated.

**DIGGING DEEPER:**

**Let the Holy Spirit shine His light into the deep recesses of your heart and search for this spirit.** Let Him expose the things that must go first. Remember, He removes these things little by little (Deuteronomy 7:22).

**Please read Psalm 119:20-24, 28-32**. Look up the following key words:

Arrogant

Reproach

Contempt

Observe

Grief

Faithful Way

**Personally pray Psalm 119:20-24 and 28-32** back to the Lord. Great repentance will come out of it and a renewed hope in the power of God’s Word.

As this spirit of voyeurism is leaving your heart, let God enlarge your heart for a greater presence of the Holy Spirit.