

SNAKES IN THE TEMPLE

NUMBERS 21:4-8

“Then they journeyed from Mount Hor by the Way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the soul of the people became very discouraged on the way. And the people spoke against God and against Moses: ‘Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread.’ So the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died. Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, ‘We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord that He take away the serpents from us.’ So Moses prayed for the people.

Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live.' So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived."

A FEW LESSONS

1. Firstly, the Christian life is not a bed of roses.
2. Secondly, we must be careful not to be offended with God when things get difficult, because it's so easy to blame Him for it.

**"We thank God for what is given and
we will not allow what is not given to
spoil what has been given."**

~ ELIZABETH ELLIOT

**“What good does it do to speak in
tongues on Sunday if you have been
using your tongue during the week
to curse and gossip?”**

~ LEONARD RAVENHILL

**“In the church, when everyone’s silent,
you can't tell who’s the mature man,
who’s the saint or who’s the idiot.
Until he or she opens their mouths.”**

~ ANONYMOUS

PROVERBS 17:27-28

“He who has knowledge spares his words, and a man of understanding is of a calm spirit. Even a fool is counted wise when he holds his peace; when he shuts his lips, he is considered perceptive.”

PSALMS 45

T H E K I N G ' S S P E E C H

PSALM 34:11-12

vs 11: "Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord."

vs 12: "Who is the man who desires life, and loves many days, that he may see good?"

4 THINGS WE MUST DO

1. Keep your tongue from evil.
2. Keep your lips from speaking deceit.
3. Depart from evil and do good.
4. Seek peace and pursue it.

PROVERBS 26:20

"Where there is no wood, the fire goes out;
and where there is no talebearer, strife ceases."

MATTHEW 12:33-37

“Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit. Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

DEFINITION

"Gossip is sharing anything about someone, when the act of sharing it is *not part of the solution* to the person's problem."

LEVITICUS 19:16

**“You shall not go around as a talebearer
among your people.”**

1 TIMOTHY 5:13

“Besides they (*talking about women*) learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house and not only idle but also gossips and busybodies, saying things which they ought not.”

PSALM 101:5

**“Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor,
him I will destroy.”**

PROVERBS 20:19

“He who goes about as a slanderer reveals secrets, therefore do not associate with one who flatters with his lips.”

HOW DO YOU DEAL WITH SNAKES IN THE TEMPLE?

1. Snakes hate fire.
2. Snakes hate certain smells.
3. Snakes leave when there's no food source.
4. Bruise them on the head.