

King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

Filling in the Gaps – Lesson 17
Foolishness

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Proverbs 25:11 *A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.*

Most men harbor a sin that they do not think God considers as being sin. That sin has many titles, here are just a few: joking around, mouthing off, adding remarks while trying to be funny, making/poking fun, cutting up, saying things without thinking about the consequences first, talking gross, making light of someone's conversations, and jesting. Now understand, there is a time and a place for telling jokes. Some preachers use the telling of a joke at the beginning of their sermon to ease the tension in the audience, which is acceptable just as long as the joke is not offensive to an individual or a particular group of individuals.

Let's look at a few scriptures to see how the Lord would have us to speak to HIM and treat others.

Ephesians 5:1-4 *Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; 2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour. 3 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; 4 Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.*

Look at how verses 1 & 2 begin, *Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;* Then God tells us to "*walk in love.*" Why should we walk in love? *Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.* We say to ourselves and others that we love God. God asks of us a simple thing, and then reminds of the great things He has already done for us. He then tells us what would please Him *3 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; 4 Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient:* He finalizes His command to us by saying, *but rather giving of thanks.*

Our focus for this lesson is Ephesians 5:4 *Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.* God wants us to be followers of Him as little children, walking in love. Most of us, before we were saved used to stand around cussing with our friends, telling dirty jokes. How are we any different if the only thing that has changed are the words and the punch line?

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Watch the progression of these verses Psalms 1:1-3 *Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.* Do not walk, do not stand, do not sit, then you shall prosper. What happens when you start walking with the ungodly? You are yielding to sin. What happens when you start standing around with sinners? You start listening to others talk about sin. What happens when you start sitting with the scornful? Now you have joined in on their conversation. What happens if you walk, stand, and sit with the ungodly? You become the ungodly Psalm 1:6 *For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.*

Let's say there is a man or woman in church whose appearance is not up to your standard. Do you think they will laugh when they overhear you joking to others about their appearance? Are we walking in love as little children when we make a joke about someone's appearance?

God is very serious about joking around even if we are not. It is not funny; it hurts people, and God does not like it one bit. Mark 9:42 *And whosoever shall offend one of these little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea.*

We need to get a clear understanding of Matthew 12:36 *But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.* Do we really understand that God is going to judge us for what we do in our bodies after we are saved? (This judgment [1 Corinthians 3:12-17] does not change the fact that we are saved, but rather it is a judgment of our actions as saved individuals.)

We live in a world that is perverse in love, not the love of God but the love of fornication, adultery, filthiness, covetousness, and evil speaking one to another.

Even though we are saved, we are still not shielded from this type of behavior. We must make a conscious effort each day not to do as the world does. God does not like it, and if it is our desire to please God, we have to prove it daily.

- Having proven something to be right, we need to declare it to the entire world.
- Having proven something to be wrong, we need to stop doing it.
- Having proven something to be sinful or dirty, we need to banish it from our conversation and our discussions.

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God is very serious about the condition of our hearts and of our lives. What we do and what we say reveal whether our hearts are in line with the heart of God. God puts His word above His name. (Psalm 138:2). Our obedience or disobedience to His word is what demonstrates the true condition of our attitude and our hearts.

In Ephesians 5:6-7 God warns that we could be deceived into thinking that because one professes to be a child of God, that gives him/her a free pass to live in darkness rather than in light (John 3:19). That brings to mind some very prominent preachers who believe that it is OK to ridicule the very idea of holiness, who mock and undermine the very principles of righteousness and biblical Christianity, and who cover all of their vain conversation with the word "love."

Their ideas are as follows:

- If you preach against sin, then you don't have any "love..."
- If you call upon people to honour God with their lives, you are unloving.
- If you suggest that God's wrath is upon people who engage in certain practices and activities, you're called a *hatemonger... and mean-spirited... hurtful to the cause of Christ.*

Those who buy into this hogwash are deceived and being deceived by the devil and his followers. (John 8:44)

God wants us to be Holy, (1 Peter 1:16; 2 Peter 3:11)

How should we behave ourselves around people, especially those of the household of God? Men should behave as perfect gentlemen, and women as refined, elegant ladies.

When you are about to say something, think about who is listening. If you were standing in the presence of God, would you make that remark to Him? Would you act in that manner? Would you tell God that joke?

Ephesians 5:4 ***Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.*** Dirty jokes... dirty stories... dirty words... dirty language... dirty accusations... dirty gossip... dirty rumors... dirty tale bearing... dirty bragging... dirty criticism... dirty, "here's why we're better than you"... dirty, "here's why we're more spiritual than you." Why don't you give thanks to God that you are not a drunk sleeping under a bridge or living out your life in an insane asylum because you overdosed on drugs when you were younger? Why don't you give thanks to God that you were born in a country where you have the availability to own a Bible and not in a Muslim country where they behead Bible believers. Stop trying to exalt yourself above your brethren. All that foolish talk, tearing down others to make

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yourself superior shows that you are carnal and self-centered. You are just a spoiled brat; nobody thinks you are spiritual. The bragging you do about your "better" standards does not cause others to think you are spiritual or right with God. Anybody that is right with God does not exalt themselves; those exalt Jesus Christ. Heritage, social status, money, fancy clothes, new cars are not a reason for anyone to feel superior over anyone else, they are just things. *Naked we came in to this world and naked we will go out* (Job 1:21). Where you were born or what kind of education you had does not make you superior to anyone. The only thing that matters is your relationship with the One that made all things. (John 1:3). Stop trying to make everyone feel that you are a little better than they are by your attitude, talk, and mannerism. Cut it out. If you live right, everybody will know it. If you have to **tell** everybody you are living right, you are a prime example to them and to God that you are not!

God defines cussing as **Filthiness**. The world cusses all day long. People used to apologize for using vulgar language in the presence of a Christian, but not anymore. In the 21st century, cuss words are just part of the language of our day; Women cuss, Men cuss, Children cuss, Church people cuss, Professing Christians cuss. If all that cussing isn't bad enough, they do it without shame. ***Hello*** God is listening! Stop it right now!!! Have we forgotten that the wages of sin is death? Quick story: My wife and I used to work together in the retail business. One day a woman came in the store; every other word out of her mouth was a cuss word. When she finally stopped talking and smiled, she only had one tooth in her mouth! That is when I thought about Romans 6:23; all that sin coming from her vocal chords and over her teeth was killing them. There are many reasons for tooth decay - some hereditary, some cancer, some poor diet, some bad hygiene, and some cussing for the purpose of this story.

The Bible says, James 5:12 *But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation.*

Colossians 3:8 *But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.*

Do you think anyone in heaven is sitting around the throne of God cussing, telling dirty jokes, making jokes about other people, poking fun of others because of their birth place or color or income bracket, talking about that man/woman and their behavior that you do not approve of? NO!!! All are praising the Lord with shouts of "Holy, Holy, Holy" (Isaiah 6:3). What gives us the right to do any different?

Psalms 50:23 *Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me: and to him that ordereth his conversation aright will I shew the salvation of God.*

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Philippians 1:27 *Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;*

Philippians 3:20 *For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:*

Joking around, mouthing off, adding remarks while trying to be funny, making/poking fun, cutting up, saying things without thinking about the consequences first, talking gross, making light of someone's conversations, judging people you do not agree with, cussing, swearing, and jesting are what the world does. Do you want to be part of the world or Christ?

Why not just change your vocabulary, way of thinking, and covetous heart to just praise the Lord? Give God thanks with your lips. Honour Jesus Christ. You are washed in the blood and going to heaven. You have eternal life. Life is good.

Ephesians 4:22-24 *That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; 23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; 24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*

Notes

KJV

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Name _____

Note: must include scripture with all your answers, including the T/F.

1. Why should we walk in love?*
2. Why is it so important that we not keep company with people who are not saved?
3. What does God think about people who make fun of other people?
4. What is God's outlook on a believer who is just kidding around?
5. Why should we NOT make jokes about people's weight? What are the consequences of that joke in God's perceptive?*
6. Are the saints in heaven making jokes about people for their race, color education, or financial status? Why?
7. What are you telling God when you call others names?
8. Explain Mark 9:42.

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9. Why does God not want us to be covetous?*

10. When is it OK to tell a joke?

11. What is God's outlook on filthiness, foolish talking, and jesting?

12. If you know you are breaking God's commandments, what should you do?

13. How should we behave ourselves around people, especially those of the household of God?

True/false



- It's OK to talk gross around my wife.
- In God's eyes all people are the same, no matter their heritage, race, or social status.
- God wants us to be holy*

Scripture memorization

Ephesians 5:1-4; James 3:13; Matthew 12:36

Write out these verses on the back on this page: (must be in KJV)

any questions?