

Sisters for Yah

Why did Yahweh try to kill Moses?

In Exodus 4:24, we read the following: “And it came to pass on the way, at the encampment, that Yahweh met him (Moses) and sought to kill him.”

When I first read this many years ago, it shocked me. After all, Moses was saved as an infant by Pharaoh’s daughter, and later he was used by Yahweh to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. At the time, I couldn’t understand why Yahweh would try to kill a man who was given a divine purpose by Yahweh Himself.

After further study, I believe I’ve come to a much deeper understanding of

the situation in question. I truly believe it all comes down to Moses not circumcising his son, thereby violating Yahweh’s covenant with Abraham. Being in a covenant with Yahweh is a very serious matter. In the case of Moses, the act of not circumcising his son was seen as a serious neglect of Yahweh’s commands, warranting divine judgment.

We get more evidence with the intervention Moses’s wife, Zipporah. Apparently she was well aware of the command to circumcise. So she took it upon herself to circumcise their son and then cast the foreskin at Moses’s feet stating, “Surely you are a bridegroom of blood to me.” This incident highlights the importance of obedience to Yahweh’s laws and covenants. It underscores the seriousness of Moses’s role as a leader and representative of Yahweh. By not obeying the com-

mand, Moses made himself a poor example as a leader.

An interesting fact about circumcision is this: Yahweh commanded that infant males be circumcised specifically on the eighth day. Why is this important? By the eighth day, a newborn’s vitamin K levels are higher, aiding in proper blood-clotting during the procedure. Any sooner than this and the risk of excessive bleeding and infection becomes a very real concern.

We can certainly learn a lot from this account concerning Moses. Never forget that we, too, are in a covenant with Yahweh. When we respond to Yahweh’s call, we are immersed in Yahshua’s Name. His blood covers us. Entering into a covenant with Yahweh is a serious thing. Having just partaken of the emblems of Passover last month, we have recommitted ourselves to Yahweh. Let us make our calling and election sure.

Moses cried to Yahweh ...

Exodus 17:4



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Overcoming Gossip

Gossip is forbidden by Yahweh. Gossips make poor friends. Stay away from them. Gossips and trustworthy people work at opposite ends of the human spectrum. A good friend will build you up, not tear you down. If they gossip openly to you, they will gossip behind your back. Many times, gossiping stems from boredom and laziness. When people have nothing better to do, they sometimes sit around talking about other people. Things are said that later bring regret. Gossip hurts others. But they also discredit you if the gossip proves to be false.

Gossip puts us in the place of judging others. In a court of law, rumors and opinions are not allowed because they might unjustly sway the opinion of the jury. So when we turn our living rooms into courtrooms, we often damage the reputations of others who are not there to defend themselves.

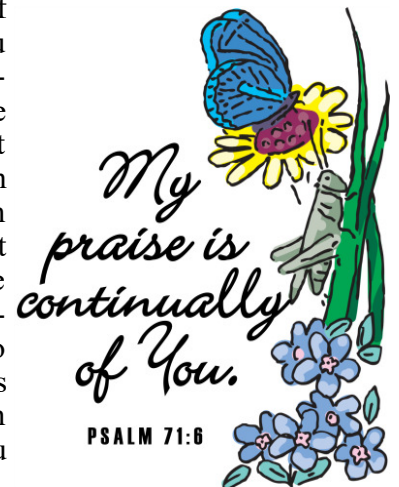
Consider the following Scriptures:

- **Leviticus 19:15:** “Do not spread slanderous gossip among your people.”
- **Proverbs 11:13:** “A gossip goes around revealing secrets, but those who are trustworthy can keep a confidence.”
- **Romans 1:29:** “Their lives become full of every kind of wickedness, sin, greed, hate, envy, murder, fighting, deception, malicious behavior, and gossip.”
- **1 Timothy 5:13:** “They are likely to become lazy, and spend their time gossiping ... getting into other people’s business and saying things they shouldn’t.”
- **Matthew 7:1:** “Stop judging others, and you will not be judged.”
- **Proverbs 18:8:** “What dainty morsels rumors are, but they sink deep into one’s heart.”



We have a promise from Yahweh. 1 Peter 3:10 tells us, “*For the Scriptures say, ‘If you want a happy life and good days, keep your tongue from speaking evil, and keep your lips from telling lies.’*”

If you think you may be about to gossip, ask yourself, Does this person that I am talking to need to know this? Is it true, accurate, edifying, and helpful? If not, make an immediate decision to not say anything. If we focus on what is good and helpful, gossip will not find a foothold in our hearts. Stop the chain of gossip with you! When you hear gossip, you can do something about it. You can decide not to spread it further. All it takes is one small spark to burn down an entire forest. Quench the flame before things get out of hand. We must examine the facts carefully. If you are unsure if something is true, go to the source. Get the facts straight. Practice the golden rule. Treat others the way you want to be treated.



Loving the Unlovable

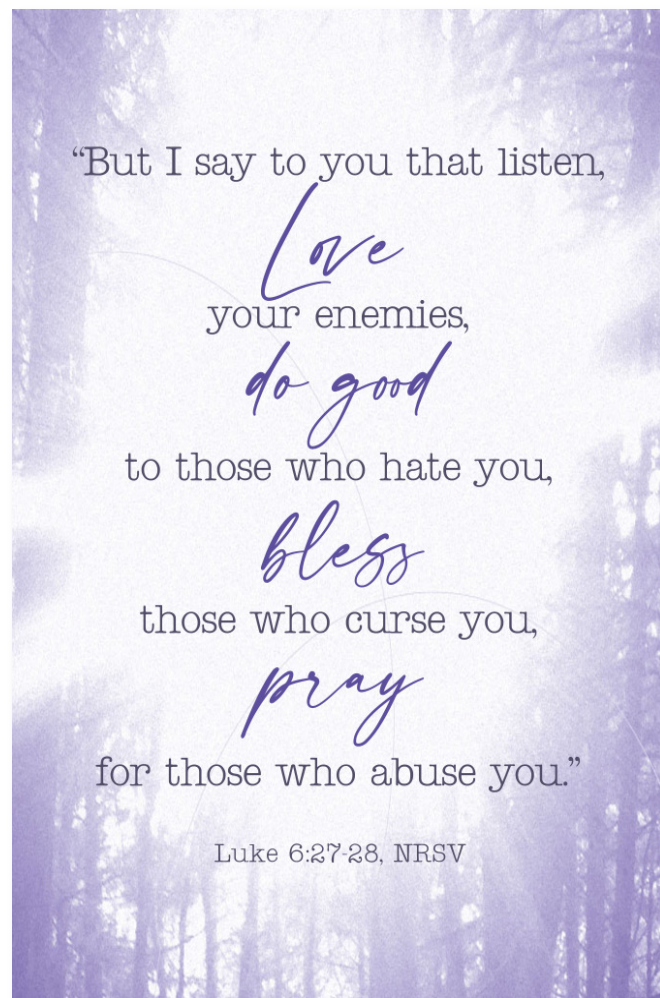
Yahweh's people come from every background, culture, past religious affiliations, and childhood up-bringsings. Most of the time, these differences can be interesting and fascinating, often leading to exciting table talk. I love learning about other cultures. But sometimes our differences can cause conflict and misunderstandings. We all have our negative triggers and pet peeves. One of my triggers is hearing atheists say that people who believe in creation are far less intelligent than those who believe in evolution. But even among believers, there are things that we say, and do, that may unintentionally offend each other. It's very normal to gravitate toward people that we like, and to avoid those we dislike, but we should treat everyone with kindness.

There is an example in Scripture that we can turn to. Romans 14:1, 3: *Accept [believers] who are weak in faith, and don't argue with them about what you think is right or wrong...Those who think it is alright to eat anything must not look down on those who won't. And those who won't eat certain foods, must not condemn those who do for Yahweh has accepted them.* Keep in mind that we believe this is speaking of vegetarian and non-vegetarian believers. The above verse has nothing to do with clean and unclean meats. We do observe Yahweh's kosher laws, as they are for our own good. So how should we "love" those we don't like? First of all, we must treat them with kindness, gentleness, and understanding. As a child, I often heard the wise advice to "think before you speak." This still rings true when we are adults. Train your tongue to stay silent until you think clearly about what you are about to blurt out.

Have mercy on others. None of us has ever walked a mile in another's shoes. One person's pain, may not even register with another. I had a friend who was always worried about what other people were saying about her, whereas I could care less what others were saying about me. I never could understand why she cared so much about other people's opinions, until she shared with me that she grew up in an extremely judgmental household. Her parents constantly criticized others, including their own children. But I still encouraged her not to dwell on what others were saying. Ultimately, we should worry about what Yahweh thinks of us. Pleasing Him should be our focus.

We also need to be aware of different personality types. Most people fit into two basic categories: Introverts and extroverts, with every thing in between. Extroverts are generally "people" persons—they love talking and spending time with many people all the time. They get lonely quickly and feel energized by fellowship. Introverts, on the other hand, are drained emotionally by excessive talking and visiting. There is even a thing called an "introvert hangover," which is described as feeling exhausted and overwhelmed after a long drawn-out conversation, often feeling the need to withdraw in solitude to recharge one's self.

Indeed, getting to know other believers can be a challenge, but we really should be modeling Yahshua. He was kind to people, but firm with those who needed it. It all comes down to the golden rule. We must treat others the way we want to be treated. None of us are perfect yet, but we are striving toward that direction.



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Mexican Layered Dip

1 can refried beans (be sure there's no lard in it)
1 T. taco seasoning
1 cup sour cream
1 cup shredded cheddar
1/4 cup sliced black olives
1 tomato, chopped
Tortilla chips, for serving

Combine the beans and taco seasoning. Spread in a casserole dish or pie plate. Layer the remaining ingredients in order. Keep chilled. Serve with tortilla chips.



Italian Ranch Chicken Soup



1 t. oil
2 cups chopped chicken
1 can green beans (15 ounces), undrained
1 can chicken broth (15 ounces)
1 can white beans (15 ounces), undrained
1 can diced tomatoes (15 ounces), undrained
1 10 ounce package frozen spinach
1 packet Ranch dressing mix

Heat the oil in a large pot. Cook the chicken until no pink remains in the center. Add the rest of the ingredients and simmer gently until heated through. Serve with crusty bread.

Meatball Casserole

1 bag frozen turkey meatballs
1/2 pound of pasta (any shape), cooked and drained
3 cups marinara sauce
2 cups mozzarella

Spray a 9 by 13 baking pan with cooking spray. Layer the meatballs, pasta, sauce, and half the cheese. Cover and bake 45 minutes. Uncover, top with remaining cheese, and bake 10 more minutes.

