

March 12, 2017  
Series: Thrones  
Part 7: Protecting Those Not in the Room  
Ted Cunningham

1. Leaders are often asked to choose sides. Have you ever been asked to choose a side and how did you deal with that?
2. James 4:11-12 tells us not to slander, gossip or “judge” our neighbor. Have you ever been slandered or gossiped about or judged even by your Christian brothers and sisters?
3. Where does giving an evil report come from? (**Matthew 15:19 says “For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.”**)
4. Who do you feel the most emotionally safe with? What do they do to make you feel safe?
5. When has someone protected you by keeping sensitive information confidential?
6. Has someone ever defended you? How did it make you feel?
7. Why do most people seem to love to share “sensational stories: or listen to gossip?
8. Have you ever told (and felt bad for telling) something true but hurtful, or as Ephesians 4 puts it, have you ever told something that was not “helpful for building others up”?
9. What were four types of gossipers that Ted mentioned? (You may want to look again at the scriptures that align with each type.)
  - 1. Whisperers, Romans 1:30 and 2 Cor. 2:20**
  - 2. Busybodies, I Timothy 5:13**
  - 3. Meddlers, I Peter 4:15**
  - 4. Malicious Gossips, I Timothy 3:11, Titus 2:3)**
10. Proverbs 16:28 says, “A perverse person stirs up conflict, and a gossip separates close friends.” Has gossip ever harmed or ended a friendship you know about?
11. Have you ever spoken up for someone who was absent?
12. Have you had to distance yourself from someone who is guilty of any kind of gossip?
13. What kind of words build up lives and what kinds of words destroy lives?

14. Have you been convicted to being one who can say: “Those who are absent are protected here”?