

(Esther 3:5-15)

Tattle tale! Do I need to tell what I know?

Does this affect an innocent person's well being?

• A truthful witness saves lives... (Prov. 14:25)

Does this pass the "sensationalism" test?

• A perverse man stirs up dissension and a gossip separates close friend. (Prov. 16:28)

• He who loves a quarrel loves sin... (Prov.17:19)

Is my "telling" motivated by <u>love</u> and <u>concern</u> or the reward of gossip?

• A wise man's HEART guides his mouth... (Prov. 16:23)

• The words of a gossip are like choice morsels... (Prov. 18:8)

- Would my "telling" actually **help** someone or **change** anything or simply cause heartache for someone who can do nothing about it?
- He who covers over an offense promotes love... (Prov. 17:9)
- the tongue has the power of life and death... (Prov. 18:21)
- Wisdom gives patience; it is to our glory to overlook and offense. (Prov. 19:11)

PREJUDICE

Haman... enraged (3:5)

customs are different (3:8)

destroy them (3:9)

Encountering those whose "customs" are different. **THREAT?**

Is this a threat in <u>fact</u> or by projection of my own <u>fearful</u> <u>imagination</u>?

What **type** of threat is implied by this difference?

• Physical? • Cultural? • Worldview? ETC.

Some [actual] <u>threats</u> can only be <u>removed</u> by force.

Many <u>threats</u> can be <u>removed</u> by LOVE, PRAYER, CONFIDENCE, CONVERSATION, PERSUASION, TEACHING, KINDNESS, ETC. If your enemy is hungry, feed him. If he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this you will heap burning coals on his head. Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good. (Rom. 12:20-21)

It is not good to be partial to the wicked <u>or</u> to deprive the innocent of justice. (*Prov. 18:5*)

*Americans have a right to a "fair trial." Does this always have to be in court? Can we not give a "fair trial" in our attitude and interactions and assumptions?

Scripture teaches us that all humans are created in God's image and THEREFORE any action that <u>devalues</u> or <u>discriminates</u> is an <u>insult</u> to God.

He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their maker, but he who is kind to the needy HONORS GOD. (*Prov. 14:31*)

He who is kind to the poor LENDS TO THE LORD, and he will reward him for what he has done. (*Prov. 19:17*)