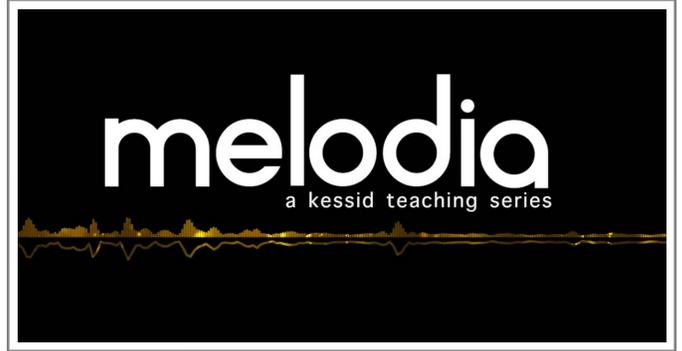


"7 NATION ARMY"
Date: January 24, 2021
Speaker: Danny Clinton



- "Seven Nation Army" is a song by American rock duo The White Stripes. It is the opening track on their fourth studio album, "*Elephant*," – 2003
- Written and produced by Jack White, the song consists of distorted vocals, a simple drumbeat, and a bass-like riff created by playing a guitar through a pitch shift effect.
- Genre: Garage Rock
- In addition to praising its riff and drumbeat, critics have ranked "Seven Nation Army" as one of the best songs of the 2000s decade.
- It won 'Best Rock Song' at the 46th Annual Grammy Awards.

Song History and Background: Jack White wrote the song as a "little experiment," hoping to create a compelling song that did not include a chorus.

- The song's title is a biblical exegesis to the seven nations fighting against the Israelites.
- The song's lyrics were inspired by the growing attention received by The White Stripes and what people were saying about them behind their backs... Regarding the song's meaning, White and drummer, Magniss stated,

"The song's about gossip, the lyrics (represent) an 'obstinate attitude,' citing the opening lines: "I'm gonna fight 'em off / A seven nation army couldn't hold me back / They're gonna rip it off / Taking their time right behind my back."

Gossip has always been a problem for Human beings...

- It often feels that rather than fight against it, we somehow desire it!
- We desire being the first to share something someone else didn't know...
- We desire knowing things we shouldn't...

The Hebrew word translated "gossip" in the Old Testament is defined as...

- **"Gossip** : one who reveals secrets, one who goes about as a talebearer or scandal-monger."
- **Def:** "Social psychologists define the essential elements of gossip as face-to-face evaluative speech about an absent subject."
- **Broken Further Down...** "A gossip is a person who has privileged information about people, and proceeds to reveal that information to those who have no business knowing it..."

**But here's where it gets tricky...
Most Christians don't Gossip, they "Share."**

- "Like, what if I'm sharing things for a good cause?"
- 'Gossip' is distinguished from 'Sharing Information' in two ways:
 1. **Intent.** Gossipers often have the goal of building themselves up by making others look bad and exalting themselves as some kind of repositories of knowledge.
 2. **The type of information shared.** Gossipers speak of the faults and failings of others or reveal potentially embarrassing or shameful details regarding the lives of others without their knowledge or approval. Even if they mean no harm, it is still gossip.

Either way, often people look at Gossip as one of the 'lesser Sins,' but that's not how the Bible describes it at all...

- In the book of Romans, Paul reveals the sinful nature and lawlessness of mankind...

(Vs) Rom. 1:29-31 NIV – "They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy."

- And it's not just in this passage that we see how serious the sin of gossip is...

(Vs) Prov. 20:19 – "Whoever goes about slandering reveals secrets; therefore, do not associate with a simple babbler."

(Vs) Proverbs 11:12,13 – "Whoever belittles his neighbor lacks sense, but a man of understanding remains silent. Whoever goes about slandering reveals secrets, but he who is trustworthy in spirit keeps a thing covered."

(Vs) Proverbs 18:7,8 – "A fool's mouth is his ruin, and his lips are a snare to his soul. The words of a whisperer are like delicious morsels; they go down into the inner parts of the body."

In spite of this, Gossip will always be part of our world...

- No matter how hard we may try, it never goes away completely... I think this is because, in the same way each of us have our own taste in music, we also have our own tastes in acceptable behavior, trial, and success!

So, instead of just teaching you why you shouldn't gossip, I want to also teach you how to respond when inevitably you are gossiped about...

- ... because even if you were to play it all perfectly, somebody, somewhere is going to say your taste in music (choices) stinks!

This week's 'One Another' Verse...

(Vs) Col. 3:16 – “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”

- “To Teach and Admonish.” – “To Instruct, Warn or Reprimand...”

The third letter of John is the shortest book in the Bible...

- It's a total of 15 verses (219 Words), and almost all of it is about responding to the words of a Gossip...
- **The First thing John does is...** “Make the hidden known.”

(Vs) 3rd John 1:9 – “I have written something to the church, but Diotrophes, who likes to put himself first, does not acknowledge our authority.”

- He acknowledges that he is writing a public letter to the Church as a whole; One that would most likely be read out loud when they gathered next.
- **The Second thing John does is to...** “Confront Directly.”
- No middlemen or women. No subversive behavior. No workarounds.

(Vs) 3rd John 1:10 – “So if I come, I will bring up what he is doing, talking wicked nonsense against us. And not content with that, he refuses to welcome the brothers, and also stops those who want to and puts them out of the church.”

- **Lastly, John reminds the reader** “We are called to be imitators of good.”

(Vs) 3rd John 1:11 – “Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God.”

- That, as John did, is how we combat gossip being shared about us...

Over the last more than 20 years in Ministry, I don't think I have seen anything more divisive and destructive than Gossip.

- It's like a verbal brush-fire once it gets going... Consuming everyone it touches... often including the one who first started it.
- So, as we begin to mix together again... we must choose to guard our tongues, and refrain from the sinful act of gossip.
- And when we feel the heat of Gossip begin to grow around us...
 1. Make the hidden known.
 2. Confront it directly.
 3. Be imitators of good.

Remembering that no matter what someone's choices are, whether they be Garage Rock or Classical...This place is supposed to be a House of Healing, Hope, and Love...