

Loose Lips Sink Relationships

Keeping Secrets: The Jewish View

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א וַיִּקְרָא, אֶל-מֹשֶׁה; וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֵלָיו, מֵאֵהֶל מוֹעֵד לֵאמֹר. **1** And the LORD **called** unto Moses, and **spoke** unto him out of the tent of meeting, saying:

ב וַדַּבֵּר אֶל-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְאָמַרְתָּ אֲלֵהֶם, אָדָם כִּי-יָקָרִיב מִכֶּסֶם קָרְבָּן, לַיהוָה--מִן-הַבְּהֵמָה, מִן-הַבָּקָר וּמִן-הַצֹּאן, תִּקְרִיבוּ, אֶת-קָרְבָּנֵיכֶם. **2** **Speak** unto the children of Israel, and **say** unto them: When any man of you bringeth an offering unto the LORD, ye shall bring your offering of the cattle, even of the herd or of the flock. **Leviticus 1:1-2**

כ אֵין אֶסְתֵּר, מַגִּידַת מוֹלְדֹתָהּ וְאֶת-עַמָּהּ, כְּאִשָּׁר צִוָּה עָלֶיהָ, מֶרְדֵּכָי; וְאֶת-מֵאֲמַר מֶרְדֵּכָי אֶסְתֵּר עָשָׂה, כְּאִשָּׁר הָיְתָה בְּאִמְנָה אִתּוֹ. **20** Esther had not yet made known her kindred nor her people; as Mordecai had charged her; for Esther did the commandment of Mordecai, like as when she was brought up with him. **Esther 2:20**

In the Talmud (Yoma 4b), the rabbis ask, “**Why so many words of speaking in this verse?**” They answer their own question, “**We learn this from this verse that Moses would have had to keep the laws of the sacrifices secret because God told them to him in secret. The only way Moses could teach these laws to all of Israel was because of the extra words for speaking that showed that God told gave him permission to repeat this private conversation.**”

The Hafetz Hayim, master of speech concerns, taught: **Never repeat what people tell you unless they give you permission. This way, you never relate information that might cause harm** (B’air Mayim Hayim 2:27). A person told a secret to a wise man. The person then asked, “Do you understand?” The wise man said, “Yes, I understood, but I already forgot it” (Menorat ha-Mior 2:4).

"Many times a man says his words to his relatives and his confidants, and does not bother to command that they not reveal it, and they go and tell his words about, producing ruin" (Pele Yoetz, "Secret"). **"Do not tell your friends something which you would not divulge to your enemies."**
Eliezer Papo (1785-1828) Rabbi of Sarajevo

There are two kinds of secrets... by E.J. Thornton

There are two kinds of secrets that you need to know... One is your friend and one is your foe!

The best way...

The best way to tell you,
how to tell them apart
is to trust in your instincts
and follow your heart.

I wonder if you're worried
about what I will say.
Please trust me, it's easy
to learn it this way.

A good secret...

A secret that's your friend -
and I wish they all were -
feels so good on the inside
that your heart could just purr.

A party you're planning
to surprise your best friend.
Or a present you're making
for grandma to send.

These are the secrets that you'll want to keep...

These are the secrets
that you'll want to keep.
Because they're so fun,
that your heart wants to leap!

Bad secrets...

But a secret that's hurtful
is the kind that's your foe.
It makes you feel confused,

and scared and mad and low.

You can't keep this kind,
if it makes you feel sad.
These secrets you tell!
These secrets are BAD!!!

Did you see something scary?

You saw a big bully
take your buddy's lunch money.
Your friend was left crying.
The meanie thought it was funny.

The bad boy threatened you,
"You better not tell!"
You're scared now, you're mad.
Your stomach's not well.

The challenge...

You know you should tell,
but now you're afraid
the bully could hurt you.
A challenge was made!

You need to tell someone -
I tell you - you must!
Find a teacher or parent -
An adult you can trust.

Make a bad secret go away...

To make a bad secret
just go away
It has to be told
- not tomorrow - TODAY!

What really hurts you
is the fear that's inside.
Once the secret's let out,
it has no place to hide!!!

And the bully whose secret's
been let out of the bag
gets dealt with by grown ups -
you bet - he won't brag!

A secret's a secret,
but there are some you can't keep.
Like the kind forced upon you,
by some big ol' creep.

You're so smart, you learned it already!

The others are the kind
that make you happy inside -
You keep them as long
as your smile is wide!

See - you've learned it already!
You see the trend!
A bad secret's your foe.
A good secret's your friend!

When is it OK to reveal your own secrets?

From a website where people tell secrets anonymously....

- I hate people, but I love my dog. I wish I could take her everywhere.
- I secretly eat all of the little marshmallows out of the lucky charm box and blame my baby sister for it.
- I am a perfectionist
- I am completely terrified of crows
- I dance even when there is no music
- I still love her but she already loves someone else
- I haven't a friend in the world

How is this like the confessional sacrifices described in Leviticus?