

Daily Devotional, June 23, 2020 Unreliable Teeth?

Let me begin my verse selection today by first telling you that I have been dealing with some dental issues that have been prolonged by the covid-19 pandemic, due to the danger of dental work at this time. Needless to say, my tooth problems have been on my mind lately, so in boredom I looked up the word "tooth" in the Bible. Most of what I got was references to the "Eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth" Old Testament style of justice found in Exodus 21:24, Leviticus 24:20, and Deuteronomy 19:21. But there was also this little nugget in Proverbs 25:19 (NIV) – ***“Like a broken tooth or a lame foot is reliance on the unfaithful in a time of trouble.”***

Now if I were casually reading my Bible, I will admit that this pearl would have been lost on me and I would have passed on through it with the usual confused look that accompanies sayings that take time to contemplate. But this time, it stood out for me and I decided to “sink my teeth into it”.

In the NIV the verse reads, ***“Putting confidence in an unreliable person in times of trouble is like chewing with a broken tooth or walking on a lame foot.”*** It seems the word translated as unreliable person and the unfaithful could also be translated transgressor or faithless person.

With my bad tooth, I still try to chew food and sometimes it works out fine but most of the time it creates pain in my jaw that can be quite annoying. Trusting that bad tooth is not a good idea. Likewise trusting an unreliable person when facing uncertainty or danger is also foolish.

For me, another way this verse could be translated is: It is a bad idea to trust a faithless person just like it's a bad idea to count on a bad tooth to chew your food. It will let you down; and you will probably get hurt. Don't do it!

Now that I put it that way it seems rather obvious, so why would something so obvious have to be written in a wisdom book such as Proverbs? You would think that this would go without saying. Well it could be because God loves us and knows we will do dumb things, so God warns us not to do them even when we should know not to. God does it because God loves us.

Surely God is good. And loves us so very much.

Prayer: God, I stand before You today to ask for enough wisdom that I will be able to discern which path is right for me and which one I should avoid. God, bless me with wisdom, and thus, give me the ability to make the best judgments in any situation I find myself in. In Jesus Name, Amen.