

STUDY #5: Don't Play Games with God



notes

Scripture Ecclesiastes 5:1-7

Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. To draw near to listen is better than to offer the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they are doing evil.² ^[b] Be not rash with your mouth, nor let your heart be hasty to utter a word before God, for God is in heaven and you are on earth. Therefore let your words be few.³ For a dream comes with much business, and a fool's voice with many words.
⁴ When you vow a vow to God, do not delay paying it, for he has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you vow.⁵ It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay.⁶ Let not your mouth lead you ^[c] into sin, and do not say before the messenger ^[d] that it was a mistake. Why should God be angry at your voice and destroy the work of your hands?
⁷ For when dreams increase and words grow many, there is vanity; ^[e] but ^[f] God is the one you must fear.

Questions:

1. Read Ecclesiastes 5:1-7. List the specific commands and exhortations that Solomon outlines.

2. Take it to Church: Read verse 1.

a. How are we to come to worship? What does the verse say we should do?

b. What are some specific ways that we fail to enter into worship as we should?

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c. What are some practical ways that we can enter more fully into worship on Sunday morning? How do we practically “draw near and listen?”

3. Read verses 2-6. This passage deals extensively with our speech. What kinds of verbal sins are we prone to commit in the assembly of the saints? How do these affect people?

4. What do verses 1, 3 and 4 call people who do not guard their steps and their mouths? What do we learn about fools from these verses?

5. Read Ephesians 4:29. What should what we say do according to this verse?

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6. How does the gospel empower us to worship and conduct ourselves (specifically in terms of our speech) appropriately?

7. Taking it Out: “What happens in the sanctuary land, what is done by the sanctuary people, has incredible consequences for the whole world.”³ Do you agree with Meyers? Discuss how you live as a Christian (in your worship and speech) affects your family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, etc who are not Christians?

Prayer Points

- **Confess ways in which you worship and speak like a fool.**
- **Ask the Holy Spirit to continue to move the gospel deep into your heart so that it changes the way you live.**
- **Pray that we would be a community of believers that worships appropriately and speaks the truth in a way that builds others up and speaks grace to them and that that would bring many to confess Jesus as their Lord and Savior.**

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