

Attitude: Help or Hindrance

Ecclesiastes 5

Review

Key Theme: Apart from God nothing has any lasting value

Ecc 4 : Work is most rewarding when we do it for God's Glory and the benefit of others.

- **In the world's economic system work is essentially a competition to get ahead.**
- **Partnership with others is the best approach.**
- **Leaders have a need for humility and to be teachable.**

Ecclesiastes 5

[1] 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] 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 into sin, and do not say before the messenger 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; but God is the one you must fear.

Ecclesiastes 5

[9] But this is gain for a land in every way: a king committed to cultivated fields.

[10] He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity. [11] When goods increase, they increase who eat them, and what advantage has their owner but to see them with his eyes? [12] Sweet is the sleep of a laborer, whether he eats little or much, but the full stomach of the rich will not let him sleep.

[13] There is a grievous evil that I have seen under the sun: riches were kept by their owner to his hurt, [14] and those riches were lost in a bad venture. And he is father of a son, but he has nothing in his hand.

Ecclesiastes 5

[15] As he came from his mother's womb he shall go again, naked as he came, and shall take nothing for his toil that he may carry away in his hand. [16] This also is a grievous evil: just as he came, so shall he go, and what gain is there to him who toils for the wind? [17] Moreover, all his days he eats in darkness in much vexation and sickness and anger.

[18] Behold, what I have seen to be good and fitting is to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of his life that God has given him, for this is his lot. [19] Everyone also to whom God has given wealth and possessions and power to enjoy them, and to accept his lot and rejoice in his toil—this is the gift of God. [20] For he will not much remember the days of his life because God keeps him occupied with joy in his heart.

Road Map

- 1. Success from the perspective of eternity**
- 2. Behavior and attitudes in the House of God**

Success from the perspective of eternity

Corruption:

- **Governments**

NOTE: Sin is a corrupting influence that destroys everything it touches.

- **Corruption affects even the King himself**
 - **Solomon speaks intimately about corruption**

Success from the perspective of eternity

Corruption on a personal level:

Ver10 “He who loves money will not be satisfied with money...”

There is no class distinction:

- **Both the rich and the poor are consumed by the same things**
- **Neither can be happy because the desire is for an unattainable and undefined destination**

Success from the perspective of eternity

Ver 13-17 Solomon states that riches are not stable.

Matt 6:24 “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”

Success from the perspective of eternity

The riches, once attained, are never the focus of the man of God.

These riches are merely servants or tools because:

- **They are not the source of the man's joy.**
- **The riches and the very ability to enjoy them comes from God.**
- **The man's attention is not on his riches, but on God.**

Behavior and Attitudes in the House of God

“Guard your steps when you go to the house of God”

Ver 1-2 Silence is more than golden

To draw near to listen is better than to offer the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they are doing evil. 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.

The wise man is silent before God, but the fool is *loquacious* in His presence.

Loquacious= full of trivial conversation

Behavior and Attitudes in the House of God

How do you approach worship?

- **It doesn't matter where we meet we still are approaching the throne of God.**

Have you come ready to worship?

- **Do not rob from yourself the opportunity for The Holy Spirit to enrich your life!**

Solomon: 'when coming to the Temple of God, close your mouth and open your heart.'

Behavior and Attitudes in the House of God

Vows to a Holy God

Deut 23:21 “If you make a vow to the Lord your God, you shall not delay fulfilling it, for the Lord your God will surely require it of you, and you will be guilty of sin.”

Vows are promissory notes to God that must be repaid.

Vows today:

- **Marriage**
- **Infant consecration and blessing**
- **“I’ll pray for you!”**
- **“God, if only you will... I will do...”**

Wrapping it up

Solomon is addressing our attitudes toward God.

- **Solomon is warning us to get rid of an attitude of laxness in regards to God.**
- **In Acts 20:35 it says that Jesus taught us that ‘it is more blessed to give than to receive.’**
- **In Matt 10:39 Jesus says that “whoever loses his life, for my sake, will find it!”**

How’s your attitude today?

