

The Gospel According to Ecclesiastes

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 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.

I. Listening to God (v1-3)

II. Speaking to God (v4-7)

Reflection Questions:

1) How well do you really listen? What would those who know you well say?
Are you better known for your listening or for your speaking?

2) What are the qualities of a foolish churchgoer? What about these qualities tempts you?

3) What are the qualities of a wise churchgoer? What grace do you need in order to grow in this direction?

4) When are you most at risk of being quick with your mouth and hasty in heart before God?

5) Why is it so easy to forget that “God is in Heaven,” and how can we keep this attitude of fearing Him with us more?