

Ecclesiastes

Chapter 5 & 6

I. Chapter 5

A. Faults in our _____ . (Ecc 5:1)

1. Solomon spent the first 4 chapters of the book trying to make himself happy focusing on HIS own kingdom, while failing to submit to being a part of God's kingdom.

Here in chapter 5, he is redirecting our focus to recognize God as the LORD and then how to approach Him in prayer.

2. **Keep thy foot** – Another way to say it _____ – be focused and prepared before blindly rushing to God.
3. **House of God** – Remember at this time before the cross, the Jews went to the temple to worship. Now we can pray and worship directly to God through our relationship with Christ.
4. **Be MORE ready to hear** – To draw near to God and obey is better than sacrifice. Solomon here is probably looking back at all the years of his life where he failed to hear and reverence God and instead acted like a fool.
5. **Sacrifice of fools** – Foolish people vainly think that they can please God with their giving instead of their reverence and obedience. (Ps 40:6, PS 51:16, Pro 21:3, Rom 12:1)

Examples that we see in real life:

- a. Many believers say they are dedicated Christians but _____.
- b. Many believers give their money, but refuse to _____.
- c. Many believers attend worship service but _____ during service.

Ecc 5:2-3 Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter *any* thing before God: for God *is* in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few.

1. This verse shows our **Position in God's Kingdom**.
2. **rash with thy mouth** – Some people pray like they are bossing God around – is that right?
3. Solomon is teaching us - Take time to compose what you are going to say- don't just walk in and blurt something out. Think before speaking – you are addressing the Lord of Lords!

4. **hasty to utter *any* thing before God** – not blurting things out or rusing to make promises – not thought out before making them

5. **Heaven, Earth-** This establishes _____ . (John 15:13-15)

B. Vows to God. (Ecc 5:4-7)

A. God takes our vows to him _____ .

1. God calls those who break vows – fools = equates us to lost man – people not dedicated or obedient to Him.
2. A vow is a promise – breaking a vow is telling a lie and is sin!
3. This principle is repeated 4 different times in the Bible - (Numb 30:1-2, Deu 23:21-23, Mat 5:33-37, James 5:12)

B. The doctrine that God is trying to make sure that we do not miss: (Ecc 5:5-7)

1. _____ to God, if at all – He takes them VERY seriously
2. If you make a promise – _____. If you fail – you are lying directly to God.
3. Because you do not know what tomorrow brings, so _____, but sometimes we must, and sometimes God has made vows too.

C. The Vanity of Murmuring against Oppression. (Ecc 5:8)

A. God will make things right in the end but evil oppression exists and we can't change it.

D. The Vanity of Riches (Ecc 5:9-17)

1. Verse 9-11 – no matter what you covet – you will never have enough of it to be satisfied
2. Verse 12 – Having all those riches causes you to worry about them, and costs you sleep.
3. Think about what you worry about – retirement, bills, cars...these all cause you to lose sleep.
4. Verse 13 Having too much stuff can actually ruin your life!
5. Verses 14-17 You are born without riches, Die and cant take them with you, They leave you empty – so why bother? You just labored for the wind to blow them away!

Solomon's self-focused conclusion: (Ecc 5:18-20)

II. Chapter 6

A. Vanity of Riches Without Use. (Ecc 6:1-2)

1. Earning riches that you cannot enjoy is vanity.
2. Examples – Drug Lords – so much money they have to weigh it! – But can't really go anywhere and enjoy it. The billionaires that have so much they can't possibly enjoy what they have earned. It just passes to someone else.

B. Vanity of _____ . (Ecc 6:3-6)

1. Evil people try to get ahead through evil works, but that does not lead to happiness.
2. All still die (and evil ones with no respect) He comes with vanity and leaves with vanity.

C. The Vanity of _____ . (Ecc 6:7-12)

1. Section conclusion – man's appetite is never satisfied.
2. V 12 – still from a backslidden or unsaved man's viewpoint.
 - a. Through God we know what is good in life.
 - b. Though God our life is not a shadow that passes away – we have eternal life, eternal purpose and eternal impact.
 - c. If we suffer in service of the Lord now – we know what is promised to us in eternity – UNDER the SON!