All In with Jordan Easley

The Sacrifice of Fools

The Secrets of Sacrifice | Week 2 | Ecclesiastes 5

NOTES INTRODUCTION God granted Solomon a supernatural dose of wisdom, and through that gift, he was able to understand that "there is nothing new under the sun." And there is nothing on earth that can truly satisfy the soul. That includes religion, by the way. There was a point in Solomon's journey where He pursued religion, and in the same way, Solomon realized that religion in and of itself does not satisfy. Now, you might be thinking I'm not allowed to say that because I'm a pastor. But I can absolutely make that statement! And the reason I can is because what we do, what we focus on, who we are, and what we say isn't that a religion will change your life. No, our message has always been that a relationship with Jesus will change vour life. But if vou're more focused on vour religion than your relationship with Jesus, your worship will be a waste of time just like Solomon describes in today's key passage. **KEY POINTS** 1. They worshipped without preparing. These people 3,000 years ago were like many people in churches today. They just showed up when it was time to show up. They did what they were supposed to do, and they left unchanged. I wholeheartedly believe it's insulting to God when we come to church with the wrong spirit, the wrong attitude, and the wrong motives. Solomon tells us to "guard our steps when we go to the house of God." In other words, come prepared to encounter God in a real way, to engage God personally and relationally, and to worship God intimately. It takes more than a prepared preacher or a prepared worship leader to have a genuine worship experience. It takes a prepared people! 2. They worshipped without obeying. Solomon said in verse 1, "Better to approach in obedience than to offer the sacrifice as fools do." What does that mean? That word "approach" literally means to "draw near" to God. It's a word that is used to describe a person who's in a close relationship with someone else or with God. When you draw near, this word is used to show that there are good intentions in your approach.

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In other words, Solomon says it's better to draw near to God or approach God in obedience than it is to offer the sacrifice of fools (which is the opposite of drawing near with the right intentions). That's what these religious people were doing. They were approaching God, but they were approaching Him with the wrong heart and with the wrong motivations. This is what we must avoid if we want to focus on a relationship more than religion.

NOTES

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1.	How would you define the difference	e between	religion	and a r	elation	ship
	with Jesus?					

2.	How do you prepare to come to church and worship each week? If you aren't
	currently preparing, what steps can you take to start preparing for this
	upcoming Sunday?

	9				
3.	3. What are some practical ways you can draw near to God this week?				

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