

Harris Creek Baptist Church
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Series: Ecclesiastes
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Wisdom in Words, Work, and Worship

Ecclesiastes 10 & 11

Well Good Morning, Harris Creek! If you have been with us for these past few weeks, we have been going on a journey together through the book of Ecclesiastes. We have been learning from King Solomon as he has been going on a journey of his own. Because as we have been reading this book, we have been getting to learn wisdom from the guy who the Bible says has more wisdom than anybody. This guy, King Solomon, was a king with all the time, power, and resources that the world had to offer. He used his time, his power, and his resources to do one thing - he denied his heart nothing. Anything his heart wanted to do; he went after it. If he wanted pleasure, he sought it out. If he wanted power, he went for it. If he wanted rebellion, or education, or possessions he did anything his heart wanted him to do.

And the book of Ecclesiastes is really a book written for our protection. Because while King Solomon wrote it years and years and years ago, he wrote it so that we might understand today that when you do whatever your heart wants it will lead to an empty life. King Solomon is trying to tell us that you cannot just do whatever you want to do whenever you want to do. It will lead to emptiness.

But we as adults, we know better. We know that we cannot just do whatever we want to do whenever we want to do it. As adults we know better because that is what children do. Children do what they want whenever they want to do it. And as adults we know better, we would not do that. We would not look like that. Because if we did that, if we acted like children, well this is what we would look like. (Video titled *Things You Can't Do When You're Not a Toddler* plays on screens:

The video shows a man inserting into conversations random facts that children might state such as, "I have a fire truck." "I am 35 and a half." "My Dad goes to work." "I pooped by myself." He also is found chewing on his toes; shoving food into his mouth; being led to the bathroom; clapping while everyone is watching him smiling and laughing; and throwing a temper tantrum. The video shows the grown man engaging in other childish behaviors that look ridiculous when a grown man is doing them.

So, what makes that video so funny? What is so ridiculous about that video? What differentiates a toddler from an adult? Think about that. Why is that video funny? What differentiates a toddler from an adult? Well, I think that video is funny, because the difference between a toddler and an adult is that a toddler is impulsive. Toddlers will say whatever they want and will do whatever

they want. But on the other side, adults are thoughtful. We know that we cannot just pick up our cup and throw it on the ground. We are thoughtful, not impulsive.

And just for clarity's sake, just to make sure the point hits home here are three differences between toddlers and adults:

1. Toddlers say whatever they want.
2. Toddlers do whatever they want.
3. Toddlers often put themselves first.

Here is our problem...adults often say whatever they want. Adults often do whatever they want. Adults often put themselves first. So what Solomon is going to tell us this morning is, "You are not that mature!" You think that you are all grown up. You think you are an adult, but oftentimes you are not all that thoughtful. Oftentimes you are way more impulsive than what you think you are. And in fact, if we were following you around this week with a video camera, I bet we could pull up some clips and put them on the screen and here is the deal, it would not be funny. Because there would be times when you were thoughtless with your words; careless with your actions; and just selfish with your motives and it is childish.

1 Corinthians 13:11 says, **When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me.** So, this morning, Solomon is going to do all he can to help us grow up and mature just a little bit. He is going to challenge us to not be impulsive, but rather thoughtful in three different areas of our life. In our words, our work, and our worship.

So, that is where we are going this morning and we are going to be in chapters 10 and 11 of Ecclesiastes. It will feel a little different than previous weeks because we are going through two chapters of Scripture, and we are not going to go verse by verse like we have been. The first half of chapter 10 covers things that we have already preached on throughout the sermon series – so if you have missed any you can go back and listen to them. And we are not going to preach on the second half of chapter 11 because a lot of the themes there are themes that we will hit next week. And we are also not going to go verse by verse through the rest of it as well because most of this feels a lot like Proverbs. Solomon wrote much of Proverbs and if you have read Proverbs before it is a collection of random sayings of wisdom. So, one verse will be talking about one thing and the next verse will be talking about something completely different. The next verse will be talking about something else and then the next verse might relate to that verse three verses before. It is just a collection of wise sayings. That is what much of chapter 10 and 11 feel like. So, we will not be skipping any verses, we are just going to collect the verses that are talking about the same thing and pair them together in the same points.

So, we will start halfway through in Ecclesiastes 10:11, it says this, **¹¹ If a snake bites before it is charmed, the charmer receives no fee. ¹² Words from the mouth of the wise are gracious, but fools are consumed by their own lips. ¹³ At the beginning their words are folly; at the end they are wicked madness— ¹⁴ and fools multiply words. No one knows what is coming— who can tell someone else what will happen after them?**

In other words, you show me someone who talks a lot, and I will show you someone who gets in trouble a lot. This week, I just want to figure out what Scripture had to say about our tongue and our words. So, I just did a word search study and tried to figure out what the Bible said about our tongue. What are the different descriptions of our tongue in Scripture? This is fascinating. I think you will learn something here! This is what the Bible has to say about your tongue. It describes your tongues as a: snake, a fire, a sword, a world of evil, and full of deadly poison. Woah!

The Bible does not have many kind things to say about our tongues because our tongue can get us in a lot of trouble! There is a whole host of things that our tongue can do that are sinful to God, dishonoring to God, and can dishonor others. Our tongue can lead us to lie, gossip, dishonor others, showcase our pride. Our tongue can curse, hurt, abuse, display unhelpful sarcasm, discourage others, ruin your reputations, and crude joking. None of those things are honoring to God and yet all of those things are easy to do. The more that you talk, all that it is doing is giving you more opportunities to fall into these things if you are not thoughtful.

I love the progression of verse 13 when Solomon is talking about “the fool”. He says, ¹³ **At the beginning their words are folly; at the end they are wicked madness**— He is saying the more they talk the worse it got. He didn’t make sense when he started talking, but the more he talked the worse it got. It started out as folly, but it ended as wicked madness. Then in verse 14 he says, ... **fools multiply words**. They do not speak thoughtfully, they speak impulsively.

1. *The wise are Slow with their Words*

The wise are not impulsive, they are thoughtful. You know James 1:19 says that everyone should be quick to listen and slow to speak. Quick to listen and slow to speak. It is the same wisdom given chapters before, thousands of years before in Ecclesiastes. Everyone should be quick to listen and slow to speak. We have heard that verse before, you likely know that verse. You likely have read that verse before. So, why are we not actually slow to speak? And I think that it is because we do not really believe what the Bible says about our tongue. I think it is because we do not actually really, truly believe that our mouth is dangerous – that our words are dangerous. We do not believe that.

Because just looking again at verse 12, talking about the fool, Solomon says, ... **fools are consumed by their own lips**. What he is saying is that the foolish will be swallowed up - consumed, eaten alive - by their own lips. Their mouths will eat them alive. This is the picture he is trying to show us in this chapter. If you are foolish with your words, you will be eaten alive by your words. You know when I read that, the first picture that comes to mind - if you are a Star Wars fan – it reminds me of The Return of the Jedi. There is this scene where Jabba the Hut is going to push Luke Skywalker into this huge mouth thing in the ground. Have you guys ever seen that before? That is what Solomon is saying. He is saying that is your mouth, whether you realize it or not. Your mouth is a dangerous thing that wants to eat you alive because it is dangerous.

And the thing is that we have all experienced this before. We have all experienced words that we have said that have eaten others alive and we have experienced words that others have spoken to us that have eaten us alive. We have all experienced that words can be dangerous.

And there is this one setting where words are even more dangerous than normal. Because there is this one setting in life where your words just mean more. They simply mean more. Because in this one setting, this one context, your words have a greater capacity to build up and they also have a greater capacity to tear down. Because there is this one setting in life where your words just mean more. Because there is this one setting in family where your words mean more.

Just this week, I was sitting with one of our college students here at Harris Creek and he was talking to me with pain in his eyes recounting words that his dad had spoken to him years ago. He was like, "Nate, I cannot get over them. I remember them word for word. I remember where I was and how I felt." Because words that we speak in the context of family just matter more. And the good news is that a lot of us this week will have the opportunity to use our words in the context of family because this week is Thanksgiving. And while I know not all of us will be with family, many of us will.

Let me ask you a question, similar to a question that JP asked last week. He asked, "What will ruin a meal?" Let me ask you this, "What is going to ruin your Thanksgiving?" When you look back on this Thanksgiving what will it be that ruined your Thanksgiving? Think back to previous Thanksgivings, what ruined those Thanksgivings? Let me tell you, it is not going to be your burnt turkey. If you burn your turkey if anything it is a funny story years later. It is not going to be a burnt turkey. What is going to ruin your Thanksgiving? It is not going to be Aunt Suzy's nasty sweet potato casserole. That is not going to ruin your Thanksgiving. What is going to ruin your Thanksgiving is someone's nasty words.

Your sister saying, "Oh you are still single." Your Mom saying, "Oh that sweater doesn't fit as well as it did last year." Your Dad saying, "Oh when are you going to get a real job?" See these are real things that really happen, and they won't just ruin your Thanksgiving, they will leave you scars for years to come, because when we are impulsive with our words, it is dangerous.

But Solomon wrote this chapter to try and protect you from you. He wants to save your Thanksgiving. So, he is saying, "Don't be foolish with your words. Don't speak impulsively. Speak with wisdom." And this is what it means to speak with wisdom. In verse 12 he says, ¹² **Words from the mouth of the wise are gracious...** They are gracious! I promise you this, the only way you will have a successful Thanksgiving this year if you commit to your mind right now to only speak words that are gracious. What if you did that? What if when you are around each other you only speak words that are gracious about each other. Words that are gracious about the food, words that are gracious about the host, about the home. What if you did that? Man, I think that it would be a successful Thanksgiving because gracious words create great environments. Gracious words create great environments.

But this is not all that Solomon has to say on the topic of words. We are going to skip a couple of verses down to verse 20 where he says this, ²⁰ **Do not revile the king even in your thoughts, or curse the rich in your bedroom, because a bird in the sky may carry your words, and a bird on the wing may report what you say.** It is easy for us to let down our guard with our words whenever we think that we are safe. Whenever we are with our buddies out on the golf course, we think we are safe, and we can talk about our wife or about our job. Or whenever we are with

our girlfriends, we feel like we can talk about our family or our job or our boss or our husband because we are safe. You never really know when you are safe.

A few years ago, I was at a pool with some of my buddies. And we were in this one pool and then this pool next to us had this diving board and there was this dive team practice going on. And there are some divers on this team that were just amazing! They did that thing where they dive in and there is no splash at all. So, we were just kind of marveling at them. And then there was this one guy though where it genuinely felt like a practical joke. It would just be great dive, great dive, great dive. He would come up and a belly flop. We thought he was kidding. He was so bad. And we were just having the time of our life watching this team. We were like, “This guy stinks!” And we are just laughing and honestly making fun of him. But we were a ways away, there was no chance he could have heard us. He was in a different pool. He was a ways away. We were just laughing and talking about him and having a great time.

After a while, this woman who was standing next to us said, “Hey could you stop? That is my son and that is hurtful.” Man.... It was just one of those moments where your stomach turns inside out, and it doesn’t matter what we said to apologize – though we did – you could not undo it. Even now, it just makes me sick. I cannot believe I did that, but I thought I was safe. I thought he could not hear me. Here is the deal, you are never safe. You are never safe to just say whatever you want. You are never safe to use words impulsively. Let me make it clear to you, if you want to be safe with your words just always speak gracious words. Then you will never have to fear! You will never have to fear who is around or who might hear what. Just speak words graciously and you will be safe.

But if you are thinking, “Nate, I really do struggle with my words. I want to be better with my words. I want to speak graciously. What should I do?” Well in verse 11, interestingly enough, he compares the mouth to a snake. He says, “if your mouth is not charmed it will bite people just like an uncharmed snake would.” Then in verse 12 it says that the wise speak words that are gracious. That word for gracious can also be translated as charming. Is that not interesting? He says, you need to charm your tongue like you would a snake. Here is how you are going to charm your tongue this week – Ecclesiastes 5:2, flipping back a couple of chapters he says this, **²Do not be quick with your mouth, do not be hasty in your heart to utter anything before God. God is in heaven, and you are on earth, so let your words be few.**

If you are struggling to find time to spend with Jesus, I would guess that you are also struggling with your words. So, if you are struggling to find time with Jesus, let me just challenge you for the sake of your words, commit to spending time with Him each day. Stand in awe of His goodness! Marvel at His grandeur! Think about how gracious and kind and compassionate and big He is, and I will bet you will be slower with your words because you have been more thoughtful. So, point number one was the wise are slow with their words.

So, Solomon has talked about words in these chapters and the next theme we will see very clearly is the theme of work. We are going to read one verse in chapter 10 and then we will skip ahead to chapter 11. He says this in Ecclesiastes 10:18, **Through laziness, the rafters sag; because of idle hands, the house leaks.** Chapter 11:1, **Ship your grain across the sea; after many days you may receive a return. Invest in seven ventures, yes, in eight: ...** In other

words, don't go all in on Bitcoin because your fake money might actually turn out to be fake money. Do not go all in on anything. ... **you do not know what disaster may come upon the land.** ³ **If clouds are full of water, they pour rain on the earth. Whether a tree falls to the south or to the north, in the place where it falls, there it will lie.** ⁴ **Whoever watches the wind will not plant; whoever looks at the clouds will not reap.** Skipping ahead to verse 6, we will come back to verse 5, **Sow your seed in the morning, and at evening let your hands not be idle, for you do not know which will succeed, whether this or that, or whether both will do equally well.**

In other words, he is saying the wise work hard while the foolish are lazy. Because the lazy get up each day determined to work as hard as they feel like it. If the stars align, if the clouds are forming, if the wind is blowing in a certain direction, then they will work hard if they feel like it. But it is foolish to work based on your feelings. And you know this if you are a parent! You know this because let's say you have asked your kid to clean their room and they did not do it. And you ask them, "Hey, why didn't you clean your room?" What are they going to say? They are going to say, "Because I didn't **FEEL** like it." It is childish to have your work ethic be determined by your feelings. As adults, we know this. We are not ruled by our feelings, we are ruled by the Word of God. And the word of God says...

2. The Wise are Steadfast in their Work

Through rain, snow, or shine the wise put in consistent, steadfast, good, hard work. Because Colossians 3:23 says, **Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord.** The problem is that many of us are not working in submission to the Lord, we are working in submission to our feelings. We work as hard as we feel like working. We work hard if we feel like our boss notices us. We work hard if we feel like we are well paid. We work hard if we feel like our job is meaningful. We work as hard as we feel like it and it is foolish. Because the godly and the wise, they put in hard work in whatever they do because they know they are working for the Lord. They know that the Lord is not honored by your laziness. The Lord is not honored when He sees you spending a lot of time at work just scrolling through the internet and you are still picking up a paycheck. The Lord is not honored when you halfway go through your homework. Because the Lord is not honored by your laziness. But I have been there before, I really have.

In fact, when I was going through seminary I was in a preaching class. A beginner's preaching class which was great, but I was already preaching here on Sundays. So, I would preach here and then I would have to preach there a couple of times during the week – maybe three times a semester. And they were shorter sermons to our class, which was about 15 people. And the vast majority of the people in the class were just terrified of public speaking, so all I had to do was stand up there and not be nervous and I would sound like Billy Graham. So, I was like I don't have to do anything, and I am just going to skate by – this is going to be great! So that is what I did. I did the absolute bare minimum. I hardly thought about that class once or my sermon once before I showed up and I just skated by. I put in hardly any work, and I just feel like you need to know this, in seminary I got a B in preaching. Take that as you will. Some of you are like, "Nate, you should have gotten a C. Man, your sermon last time..."

Anyway, I got a B in preaching because I did not work hard. And looking back on it, thinking back on it, I don't think God was like, "Way to go Nate! You are so much better than that. You are already preaching on Sundays. Why would you need to put in any work during the week for that?" I don't think that is His response, because God cares deeply about our work ethic. God cares deeply about what we do with the gifts that He has given us. Because here is a verse that maybe you have never read it before, maybe you have never noticed it before. It is from a random book, 2 Thessalonians. You've maybe never noticed it before. Look at what it says about work ethic! Chapter 3:6-8, **⁶In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers and sisters, to keep away from every believer who is idle and disruptive and does not live according to the teaching you received from us. ⁷For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, ⁸nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you.**

You see, your work ethic displays your theology. Are you working for God or are you working from your feelings? And some of you, your laziness is stealing from what God has given you. And some of you, your laziness is stealing from your company. And here is the thing...I don't even have to convince you of this, you know it. I don't have to give you examples because you are living it. You know it. You know you are not putting in your best. You know you are doing the bare minimum to just get by. You know you are far more concerned about your perception than you are your actual production. You know you are not giving it your best and friend, may I just say kindly, your laziness is not honoring to the Lord.

But that is not all that Solomon has to say on work. He says this earlier in chapter 10, verse 15. He takes a different tone and says, **The toil of fools wears them; they do not know the way to town.** So, he says that the wise work hard, but the foolish can also work really hard. And the foolish can work as hard as they want, but they will be wearied out by their work because they are doing the wrong work. The picture here is of someone who is trying to get to town – who wants to get into town – but is running as hard as they possibly can the opposite direction. It doesn't matter how hard or fast they run, they are never going to get to their desired goal because they are doing the wrong things. And some of you, you are working hard but you are working on the wrong things.

JP said this a couple of weeks ago, but I feel like it bears repeating. Some of you are working so hard to provide for your family at the expense of your family. You are working so hard 8-5 or 8-6 or 8-7 or 8-8 and then you are working on the weekends. You are working so hard at your job that you are neglecting your family and you are working hard on the wrong things. And some of you, you are working so hard on your family. You are making sure that everyone is cared for and known and seen and make sure that everyone has everything they need. But meanwhile, you are not working on your relationship with Jesus at all and may I just tell you that you have your priorities mixed up. Yes, you need to work on your family, but you also need to work on your relationship with Jesus. What Solomon is trying to tell us in this passage, he is trying to convey that wisdom in terms of work is this: wisdom is knowing what to do and then doing it. Wisdom is knowing what to do and then doing it. Because point number 2, the wise are steadfast in their work.

So, Solomon has touched on our words. He has talked about our work. Now he is going to talk about our worship. Chapter 11, verse 5 he says this, **As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother's womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things.** Really, this verse is a theme for much of Ecclesiastes. Because all across Ecclesiastes what Solomon is doing time and time and time again is saying, "Wake Up! You are not God!" Think about this, I know impossibly we want to place ourselves at the center of our universe but think about this for a second. You do not know what is going to come next! You do not know if you are going to live or die. You do not know if it is going to rain or be sunny tomorrow. You have no idea what is going to come next and yet we read this verse, we read Ecclesiastes 11:5, **you cannot understand the work of God... you cannot understand the work of God...** We don't understand why He does His job the way He does. We are like, "That's right! That is why I want to take His job from Him. I want to make sure that my finances are okay, and my health is good. I want to make sure that I am overseeing my future and my family and my fortunes." Meanwhile Solomon is saying those things are not yours to hold, because you are not God.

Elsewhere in Ecclesiastes the same thing, Ecclesiastes 3:11, **He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. Ecclesiastes 3:11 Ecclesiastes 8:7, Since no one knows the future, who can tell someone else what is to come? Ecclesiastes 8:17, No one can comprehend what goes on under the sun...** Ecclesiastes 9:12, **Moreover, no one knows when their hour will come...** Ecclesiastes 10:14, **No one knows what is coming – who can tell someone else what will happen after them?** Do you notice a theme? He is saying the same thing. It is easy to read those verses and think that the world is just out of control. That is close, that is really close to what Solomon is trying to convey, but it is not quite. He is not saying that the world is out of control. He is saying the world is out of your control. You do not control the way the wind blows. You do not control your health. You don't control your finances. You don't even control your family. And there is some real anxiety that comes with that. Truly. Because we want to control our life, I know I want to control my life. But you have to hear this, control is façade.

There is a pastor, his name is Paul David Tripp, he says that the most controlling people I know are also the most fearful. The most controlling people I know are the most fearful. It is because the more you try to control your life, the more afraid and anxious you will be. Because when you try to control your life and grab hold of your life, you will be grasping on to things that you can't actually hold onto. You see the wise know this. The wise know that they cannot control their life and when you realize that, when you realize that you cannot control your life, it will lead to one of two options. You will either be led to worry or you will be led to worship. Which is what Solomon is trying to get us to do. He is saying...

3. The Wise are Surrendered in Worship

The two options of reading these passages, you can read it and respond like this: "Okay I am not in control of my life therefore I need to make sure that I have a back up plan to my back up plan to my back up plan. I need to plan A, B, C, D. So, I need to save more money than ever to make sure that if that happens then I can be prepared. I need to make sure that I know everything I

possibly can about my body to make sure that I will never ever, ever be sick. And I really, really care about my kids, so I want to control them and what they read and who they're friends with." And you suffocate your kids, and your life is marked by worry because your life is marked by control.

There is another way to read this passage. Because these passages in Ecclesiastes, they can lead you to think, "My life is not in control, my life is not in my hands, and thank God it is not! Because I know my life is in the hands of my heavenly father who is not just distant; who is not just far-off; who is not just powerful, but who is attentive and close and near, and He cares. I know that my heavenly father is good, and He sees. He sees when every single sparrow falls to the ground. He sees and knows the number of hairs on my head. He is not distant; He is close, and He is attentive and in control of my life. And since He is in control, I do not need to worry, I get to worship.

And you know, I think we have a worried society largely because we don't have a worshipping society. We have a worried society, largely because we do not have a worshipping society. But, let me say that even more clearly, I think we have a worried society largely because we don't have a God-worshipping society. Because we worship. We all worship. And we will be prone, we will impulsively want to worship ourselves. If we don't think about this, if we are not attentive to this, we will place ourselves as kings and queens over our own universe and we will try to control our world and in doing so we will take on the worries of our world. And it is going to make us sick, that is what it is doing. It is harming our brains, because we were not meant to control what we cannot control – which is why we need worship. Because while self-worship means taking on more control, God worship means giving up control.

Worship is really all about surrendering control, that is what worship is. It is acknowledging that He is king, and you are not. He is Lord and you are not. He is God and you are not. This is why we can worship with all that we do. We don't just worship when we get together and sing on Sunday mornings, although that is worship. We worship when we surrender control, so we can worship with our finances. We can worship with what we eat. We can worship with the thoughts we think. We can worship in all that we do because when we worship, what we are doing is surrounding control and telling God that He is God, and we are not. This is what Solomon is trying to get at chapter after chapter after chapter in Ecclesiastes. He is trying to push us here to this point of worship because He is saying it doesn't matter how much time, money, or power you have – you are not really in control. Because there is only one who the winds and waves obey. There is only one who can speak a word and a dead guy can come to life. There is only one who can heal, redeem, forgive, and restore and His name is Jesus. Since He is king, I don't need to worry because I get to worship!

So, in summary, Point #1 – the wise are slow with their words; Point #2 – the wise are steadfast in their work; and Point #3 – the wise are surrendered in worship. You see the wise are not like children. The wise don't just say whatever they want or do whatever they want. They don't put themselves at the center of their world because the wise are slow, steadfast, and surrendered. The wise are slow, steadfast, and surrendered. But what if you are listening to this and you are like, "Nate, I am not slow, steadfast or surrendered. And in fact, just this week I have said things carelessly. I have been lazy at work. I frequently put myself first." If that is you – if those are the

decisions you have made this past week let me be super clear about who you are, you are a child. If those are your decisions, you are a child. If you are thoughtless, careless, lazy, put yourself first – you are a child. And let me tell you how Jesus treats you. Matthew 19, ¹³ **Then people brought little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked them.** ¹⁴ **Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”**

You see while kids are foolish, they have the one thing that is needed to get to Jesus. Because all they have is that they know they have need. And all you need to come to Jesus is need! You see what kids have is they know that they don't have what it takes to provide, but they know they have a father who will. Kids know they will make mistakes, but they know they have a father who will clean it up. Kids know they will get lost, but they have a father who track them down and find them. Friend, you have a heavenly father who loves you and who wants you and who desires to provide for you, to clean up your mess, and to track you down when you are lost. So, you don't need to come to Him perfect, you just need to come to the one who is perfect. You don't need to clean up your mess and then come to Him. Friend you can come to Him and let Him clean up your mess, because the only people who get into the Kingdom of Heaven are the people who will be like children. Those who will say, “I am lost and broken and in need of a Savior, but because of what Jesus did I have access to the one who has all power, all authority, and who is in control.” Because you see the saved are not primarily wise people. The saved are primarily humble people, who will gladly say I am a child. I am as lost as an Easter egg. I have been thoughtless, careless, lazy and it did not honor God, but in spite of all that I know I have a heavenly father who wants me even because I did those things. I am not saved because of what I have done, I am saved because of what Jesus has done.

So, if your last week looked like this – you spoke carelessly, you did whatever you wanted, and you put yourselves first let me tell you this, you are ripe for a relationship with Jesus. Because Jesus wants the children, the foolish, to come to Him! When you come to Him, I promise you this, He will pick you up with open arms and welcome you home!

Let's pray that we would run to Him today.

Father, thank you that you are a good father. That we don't have to mature ourselves into the kingdom. That we don't have to be grown-up enough to get into the kingdom, that instead we need to grow down. We need to think about our life and realize who we are. That we are not our Savior. That there are times when we will speak carelessly; when we will do things, whatever we want to do; and when we will put ourselves first. Father would you just remind us right now, through the power of your Holy Spirit, that we are not disqualified because of those things. That we are welcomed in spite of those things, not because of what we have done but because of what you have done.

But Father, I also do pray that through the power of your Holy Spirit, that you would make our church a church that is slow with our words; steadfast in our work; and surrendered in worship. That we would think before we speak. That we would think before we work. That we would think before we put ourselves first. That we would be marked by wisdom.

And father, more than anything else we just want to rejoice in our salvation in this moment. Would you just remind us of that time when we were saved – whether that was this morning or whether that was years and years and years ago. Would you remind us of the time when we did not know you – when all the lights were out. When everything felt lost. When everything felt broken and then you came in and you picked up the pieces and you turned the lights on. Father, would we be reminded of your goodness in saving us.

Father, may we worship you like you deserve it. May we worship you like you have won because you have. Father, above all else – we want to rejoice in the name of Jesus: that He is alive and with us and for us. And it is in His powerful name that we pray. Amen.