

## Watch your Step

### I. Slide1 **Announce:**

- A. **Germany Team** fundraiser at Richie's Diner on Thursday from 5-8.
- B. Celebration Place
- C. **Feeding ministry help on Sundays** to collect food.

### II. Slide2 **Intro:** *Watch your Step*

- A. Watch your *walk, ears, heart, mouth, words, finances, & sleep*.

### III. Slide3 **DON'T ROB GOD (1-7)** *Wiersbe outline*

- A. Slide4 **WATCH YOUR WALK/STEP** (1a)
- B. Slide5,6 Describe *southern steps* leading up to the Temple Mount...*uneven*.  
Slide7 **And** describe entering the Temple mount (Muslims) *modesty police*.
- C. We also could call this section, *How to go to church*.
- D. **Ask:** How *different* was approaching God at the **Temple** & approaching Him today at **church**? What is the *same*? what is *different*? How can we do this in our day & age?
  - 1. No physical Holy of Holies.
  - 2. Still should have a *respectful attitude*. Still should be *ready to listen* rather than lecture God on what He ought to do.
- E. Slide8 **WATCH YOUR MOUTH** (1b-3)
- F. (1b) NLT *As you enter the house of God, keep your ears open and your mouth shut*.
  - 1. **Draw near to hear** - *shama* literally means *to hear*, **but** can also be translated as *to obey*.
  - 2. The most important thing in communication is **to hear** what **isn't** being said.
  - 3. Slide9 I think of standing in a room at **Latrun**. Explain Tank museum in Israel.
    - a) Memorial tower. **Made from tanks**. Walk in look down, 1st represent **mourning**. Then weeping water slowly drips about 10' up, **tears** on glass as u look at your reflection. Holes actual hits from anti-tank missiles. Then smooth metal as your eyes advance upward. Till you see the light which represents **Hope**.

G. (2) **Your heart** - *Your mouth only speaks what your heart leaks.*

1. John Bunyan said, *In prayer it is better to have a **heart** without words than **words** without heart.*

H. (2b) **God is in heaven & you on earth** – Like going to the boss's office...*remember what side of the desk you're on.*

1. **But God is our Abba, our Daddy?** Yes, and your Daddy can **show love & command respect** at the same time.

I. (2c,3) **let your words be few** -

1. **Never use a gallon** of words to express a **spoonful** of thought.

2. D.L. Moody said, *A man who **prays much in private** will make **short prayers in public**.*

a) He **isn't** saying you **can't** pray long prayers, *He's really rebuking those who practice being wordy, those who babble relentlessly.*

3. **Jesus** warned of this in Mt.6:7,8 vain repetitions.

4. Spurgeon, **It is not the length** of our prayers, but the **strength** of them, that makes the difference.

5. *Your mouth is like a birdcage...the more you keep it shut, the less chance of the little birdie flying out.*

J. **Slide10 WATCH YOUR PROMISES** (4-6)

K. Definition of biblical terms...

1. **Oath** - A solemn declaration invoking God as a witness to statements & promises, inviting Him to punish anything false.

2. **Vows** – Vows to God are the devotional equivalent of oaths, & must be treated w/equal seriousness.

3. **Honest Speech** – God requires us to take His word seriously & our own as well

a) Mt.5:33-37 *You have also heard that our ancestors were told, 'You must not break your vows; you must carry out the vows you make to the Lord.' 34 But I say, do not make any vows! Do not say, 'By heaven!' because heaven is God's throne. 35 And do not say, 'By the earth!' because the earth is his footstool. And do not say, 'By Jerusalem!' for Jerusalem is the city of the great King. 36 Do not even say, 'By my*

*head!’ for you can’t turn one hair white or black. 37 Just say a simple, ‘Yes, I will,’ or ‘No, I won’t.’ Anything beyond this is from the evil one.*

(1) So, what about in court? Is it ever right to Vow?

(2) Jesus was placed under an oath & did not hesitate, Mt. 26:63,64, **But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, "I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!"** Jesus said to him, "It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.

(3) Oaths are needed in certain situations (like courts) only because we live in a sinful society that breeds distrust.

4. Don’t attempt to bribe God w/vows...*God if I get well...I’ll move to Africa.*

5. Don’t delay to pay...& hope it goes away. These vows would also include *Marriage Vows, vows to pay your monthly bills, employee commitments, contract agreements.*

6. Pay whatever you vowed. W/*Ananias & Sapphira*, it would have been better had they *never vowed at all* or to have promised only part, than to vow & not pay. (was it not in your control?)

L. Slide11 WATCH YOUR REVERENCE (7)

M. Our 1st order of business is to Fear God.

1. See Solomon’s conclusion in 12:13.

2. Having the fear of the Lord means, *holding God in such Awe that you are wholeheartedly motivated to pursue His holiness & His service.* MacArthur

a) Prov 9:10 *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom.* OT only? nope...

b) Acts 9:31 *Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.*

#### IV. Slide12 DON’T ROB OTHERS (8,9)

A. Of course the highest Tribunal, watching over *all* high officials...is God.

- B. NLT *a poor person being oppressed by the powerful*. [care for the vulnerable]
1. The author laments the lack of **justice** (*mishpat*) **and righteousness** (*tsaddiq*).
  2. Which of course points to the fact of a **personal** God.
    - a) **Mishpat** - giving people what they are due, *punishment, protection or care*.
    - b) **Tzadeqah** - day-to-day living in which a person conducts all relationships in family and society with *fairness, generosity and equity*.
- C. Good government, by a delegated officer, is a great blessing to any country. (esp the millennium)

## V. Slide13 **DON'T ROB YOURSELF (10-17)**

- A. Does Wealth Bring Satisfaction? (10)
- B. *The wealthy King Solomon knew something about **money**. Some of this wisdom he shared in the Book of Proverbs, and some he included here in Ecclesiastes. After all, he couldn't discuss life under the sun and ignore money.* Weirsbe
- C. *Human **desires** outweighs what we can **acquire**.*
1. The great Roman Marcus Aurelius said, "The **true worth** of a man is to be measured by **the objects** he pursues." (what are you pursuing?)
  2. Slide14 There is a familiar story about **Atalanta** in Greek mythology. She agreed to marry the man who could beat her in a footrace, but those who lost must die. **Hippomenes** agreed to the contest. He first secured 3 **golden apples** that he dropped one by one as he ran. Atalanta could not resist the temptation to stop and pick them up, and thus she lost the race. (what are **your 3 golden apples**?) [Hippa'-men-ez]
  3. To make **treasure** is different from making a **profit**. *Treasure is the thing that is esteemed for itself, not for what it brings.*
    - a) Paul uses a **soldier** to illustrate a **saint's** life. 2 Tim 2:4 *Soldiers don't get tied up in the affairs of civilian life, for then they cannot please the officer who enlisted them.*
      - (1) Not **my house, my land, my books, my things** - don't have your heart on possessions, **let them come & go**.
- D. Does Wealth Solve Every Problem? (11)
- E. When wealth **increases** so does freeloaders & thieves.

1. An increase of wealth demands an increase of staff to manage it.

F. Does Wealth Bring Rest? (12) **Hardly**, **labor** brings sleep, **wealth** often brings *sleeplessness*.

G. W/Greed you lose **sleep**; w/Contentment you receive **rest**.

1. 1 Tim.6:6-10 *Yet true godliness with contentment is itself great wealth. 7 After all, we brought nothing with us when we came into the world, and we can't take anything with us when we leave it. 8 So if we have enough food and clothing, let us be content. 9 But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.*

2. Life's balance – Prov.30:7-9

H. Does Wealth Provide Security? (13-17)

I. (13) Wealth Hoarded. *Hoarding riches harms the saver.* NLT

1. I think we'd all agree...the purpose of **the church**, *financially*, is not to **accumulate** as much money as possible **but** to **give away** as much as possible. **But how about personally?**

J. **Wealth Lost** (14) Possession is so uncertain, whether by bad business, or accident...*you can lose it all!*

K. **Can't take it w/you...but you can send it ahead** (15)

1. Similar to the statement Job makes after losing his wealth and children (**1:21**). **Job still blesses God in spite of losing everything.**

2. **Ask: What can you send ahead?** – *Good works, soul winning, your character.*

L. (17) **Eat in darkness** – darkness symbolizing his misery.

1. See what this man's wealth cost him - *sorrow, sickness, & anger.*

## VI. Slide15 **CONCLUSION (18-20)**

A. Note, *wealth is good*...as long as it is seen as: **A God given portion** (18). **And**, **A Gift from God** (19).

B. (20) **A joyful heart** is the key to anyone's life. *Are you busy with joy?*