



Ecclesiastes: *The Vanity of Life Under the Sun*

Ecclesiastes 5:1-7

Introduction

Guard your steps when you come before the Lord

❖ **Ecclesiastes 5:1a**

- ❖ Exodus 3:5-6—*Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.*
- ❖ Genesis 28:17—*"How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.*

1. Listen rather than offer unacceptable worship

❖ **Ecclesiastes 5:1b**

- ❖ Leviticus 10:1-2—*Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it and laid incense on it and offered unauthorized fire before the Lord, which he had not commanded them. And fire came out from before the Lord and consumed them, and they died before the Lord.*
- ❖ 2 Timothy 4:2—*preach the word...in season and out of season;*
- ❖ Colossians 3:16—*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*

2. Don't speak until you have remembered that God is God and you are not

❖ **Ecclesiastes 5:2**

- ❖ Hebrews 1:3—*He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.*
- ❖ Hebrews 7:25—*he always lives to make intercession for them.*
- ❖ Matthew 6:7-8—*And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.*

3. Don't come before the Lord with your own ambitions and many words

❖ **Ecclesiastes 5:3**

Guard the vows that you make before Lord

❖ **Ecclesiastes 5:4-7**

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Ecclesiastes 5:1-7

- ❖ Genesis 28:18—*Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God, and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house. And of all that you give me I will give a full tenth to you"*
- ❖ 1 Samuel 1:8—*"O Lord of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your servant and remember me and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a son, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head."*
- ❖ Acts 18:18—*After this, Paul stayed many days longer and then took leave of the brothers and set sail for Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila. At Cenchreae he had cut his hair, for he was under a vow.*

1. Pay what you vow

❖ **Ecclesiastes 5:4**

- ❖ Deuteronomy 23:21—*"If you make a vow to the Lord your God, you shall not delay fulfilling it, for the Lord your God will surely require it of you, and you will be guilty of sin."*

2. Be careful with what you vow

❖ **Ecclesiastes 5:5-7a**

❖ **Judges 11:30-36**

❖ **Acts 5:1-10**

- ❖ Acts 4:32—*no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common*
- ❖ Hebrews 13:5—*"I will never leave you nor forsake you"*
- ❖ John 10:27-30—*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.*

So, finally, Solomon closes this portion of instruction by saying...

3. God is the one you must fear

❖ **Ecclesiastes 5:7b**

- ❖ Hebrews 12:29—*let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.*
- ❖ Matthew 10:28—*And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.*