

ECCLÉSIASTES

All is Vanity

1 The words of the Preacher,¹ the son of David, king in Jerusalem.

2 Vanity² of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun?

A generation goes, and a generation comes,

the earth remains forever.

15 What is crooked cannot be made straight and what is lacking cannot be counted.

16 I said in my heart, "I have acquired great wisdom, surpassing all who were of Jerusalem before me, and my heart has great experience of wisdom and knowledge."

17 And I applied my heart to know wisdom and to know madness and folly. I perceive that this also is but a striving after wind.

The background is an abstract composition. The upper half is dominated by warm, textured brushstrokes in shades of yellow, orange, and light brown, creating a sense of light and warmth. In the lower-left corner, there is a dark green, textured shape that resembles a plant or foliage. The overall style is painterly and expressive.

ECCLESIASTES

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

2

CHECK IN

GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3	GROUP 4	GROUP 5	GROUP 6
LARISSA	RUTH	BRIANA	NATE	MIGUEL	TIMOTHY
KATARINA	SYDNEY	SARAH S	RONALD	CHRIS	RENZLE
ALEJANDRA	LEAH	CHANNELLE	ANDREW	MATTHEW	ADRIANE
SARAH C	MANUELA	ASHLEY	ARON	DYLAN	NICK
REHEMA			DEREK	MARCOS	AARON D

Take 15 minutes to check in with your group.

Ask

- 1. When or where did you see God working?**
- 2. When or where did you avoid God?**
- 3. When or where did you engage God?**

WEEK 7

3 Strand Cords

Accountability

ECCLESIASTIC LIFE UNDER T

WEEK 8

VOWS

OBEDIENCE

WEEK 8

VOWS

OBEDIENCE

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LIFE UNDER T

VERSE 1

"Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. Go near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools, who do not know that they do wrong."

In going to worship, go with considerate, circumspect, reverent feeling. The allusion is to the taking off the shoes, or sandals, in entering a temple.

Be ready (heart) to hear (obey) is a better sacrifice than the offering of fools

The warning is against mere ceremonial self-righteousness, as in Ecclesiastes 7:12 . Obedience is the spirit of the law's requirements.

Positive precepts of God must be kept but will not stand instead of obedience to His moral precepts. The last provided no sacrifice for willful sin

WEEK 8 VOWS OBEDIENCE

ECCLESIASTIC LIFE UNDER T

VERSE 2+3

Do 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. A dream comes when there are many cares, and many words mark the speech of a fool.

What we say to God matters and when we enter his presence where should we be? What should we say before the God of the universe?

God is in heaven--Therefore He ought to be approached with carefully weighed words a sinner and created being.

A dream indicates the use of voice without thinking and being in control and when we are not thinking we let things go or say things we regret or are foolish.

WEEK 8 VOWS OBEDIENCE

ECCLESIASTIC LIFE UNDER T

VERSE 4+5

When you make a vow to God, do not delay to fulfill it. He has no pleasure in fools; fulfill your vow. It is better not to make a vow than to make one and not fulfill it.

There are about 30 biblical references to vows, most of which are from the Old Testament. The books of Leviticus and Numbers have several references to vows in relation to offerings and sacrifices. There were dire consequences for the Israelites who broke vows, especially vows to God.

WEEK 8 VOWS OBEDIENCE

ECCLESIASTIC LIFE UNDER T

VERSE 4+5

When you make a vow to God, do not delay to fulfill it. He has no pleasure in fools; fulfill your vow. It is better not to make a vow than to make one and not fulfill it.

Psalm 15: 4

“a righteous person as one who keeps an oath even when it hurts and does not change their mind.”

Oaths are binding, even when spoken frivolously or privately as part of everyday conversation. A promise is a promise, and there is no loophole in God’s eyes to allow a person to renege on an oath.

WEEK 8 **VOWS** **OBEDIENCE**

ECCLESIASTIC **LIFE UNDER T**

VERSE 4+5

When you make a vow to God, do not delay to fulfill it. He has no pleasure in fools; fulfill your vow. It is better not to make a vow than to make one and not fulfill it.

Jesus taught concerning vows

Matthew 5: 33-37

“You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not break your oath, but keep the oaths you have made to the Lord.’ But I tell you, Do not swear at all: either by heaven, for it is God’s throne; or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. Simply let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one”

WEEK 8 VOWS OBEDIENCE

ECCLESIASTIC LIFE UNDER T

VERSE 4+5

When you make a vow to God, do not delay to fulfill it. He has no pleasure in fools; fulfill your vow. It is better not to make a vow than to make one and not fulfill it.

The principle here is clear for Christians

1. Be careful about making vows, either to the Lord or to one another.
2. The fact that we are prone to errors in judgment means that we may make vows foolishly or out of immaturity.
3. Informal vows we make ("I swear by all the angels in heaven!") are completely unnecessary. Our word is our bond.

WEEK 8 **VOWS** **OBEDIENCE**

ECCLESIASTIC **LIFE UNDER T**

VERSE 6+7

Do not let your mouth lead you into sin. And do not protest to the temple messenger, "My vow was a mistake." Why should God be angry at what you say and destroy the work of your hands? Much dreaming and many words are meaningless. Therefore fear God.

Taming the Tongue James 3

When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. 4 Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. 5 Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. 6 The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. **It corrupts the whole body**, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. 8 **but no human being can tame the tongue.** It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. 10 Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. **11 Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring?** 12 My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

WEEK 8

VOWS

OBEDIENCE

ECCLESIASTIC
LIFE UNDER T

CHAPTER 5: 1-7 (NIV)

Fulfill Your Vow to God

Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. Go near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools, who do not know that they do wrong. Do 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. A dream comes when there are many cares, and many words mark the speech of a fool. When you make a vow to God, do not delay to fulfill it. He has no pleasure in fools; fulfill your vow. It is better not to make a vow than to make one and not fulfill it. Do not let your mouth lead you into sin. And do not protest to the temple messenger, "My vow was a mistake." Why should God be angry at what you say and destroy the work of your hands? Much dreaming and many words are meaningless. Therefore fear God.

1. **Do you lie, white lies, omission**
2. **Do you promise things and don't fulfill them**
3. **Is your word your bond**
4. **Is your speech profitable**
5. **How is your foolish talk**

WEEK 8 VOWS OBEDIENCE

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LIFE UNDER T

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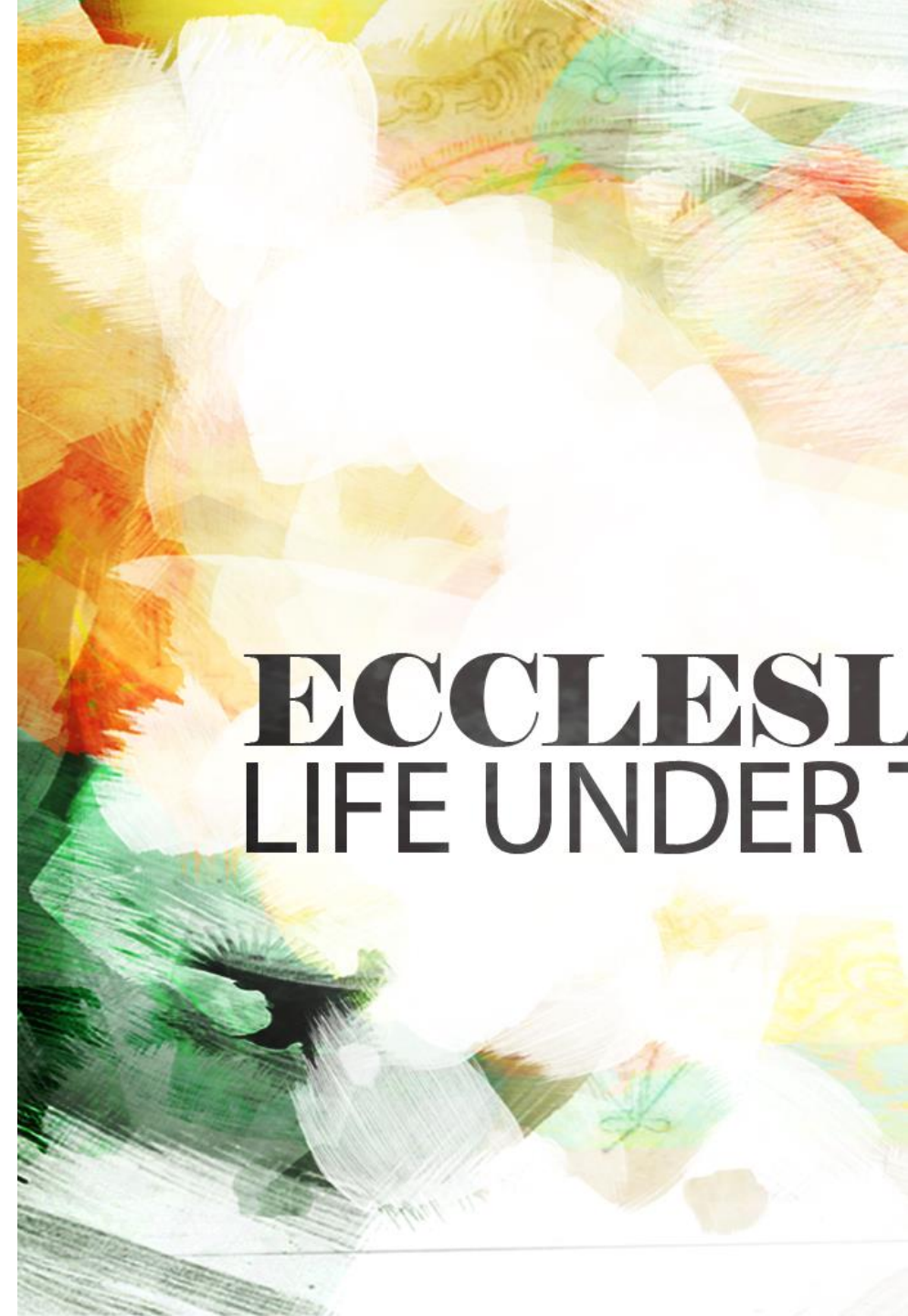
ASK

- Do you lie, white lies, omission
- Do you promise things and don't fulfill them
- Is your word your bond
- Is your speech profitable
- How is your foolish talk

PRAY

- For each other

****NEXT WEEK NO YA**



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