

Ecclesiastes– Let Your Words Be Few

Ecclesiastes 5:1-7

“We pursue being a disciple making family: surrendered to Jesus, transformed by the gospel, and saturated in His word.”

This text really takes us to the heart of worship. Clearly Scripture teaches all throughout the Psalms and other areas that when we worship there are moments of gravity and moments of celebration. There are moments we see the transcendence and other worldliness of God and at other times the immanence or intimacy of God. Our worship response to these are both right and good. Our personalities or preferences may cause us to lean one direction or the other, but both are God directed. This text is clearly focusing on the gravity and the transcendence of God. Solomon or the teacher is pointing out that true worship begins by fearing God, by responding in awe of God.

1. We are challenged to guard our steps when we go to the house of God. This is most likely referring to the temple that Solomon built. It was to point people to God in it's grandeur and majesty. In 2 Corinthians 6:16-18 we see that the people of God are now the temple of God. Buildings are not the most important thing, but neither are they unimportant. We have the ability to gather with other believers to point people to God. What are ways that we need to guard our steps as we worship God? Have we gotten into a routine that is more a ritual than being in awe of God? How so? How do you prepare for worship? Do you struggle with the temptation to critique the worship of others and their authenticity? Regardless of song or preacher are we able to be in awe of God?
2. There is clearly an expectation of frequent engagement and participation among the people of God. We are called to “draw near to listen.” The word listen carries the connotation to obey. Listen to obey the word of God. Is that our greatest desire to listen to obey? Is that our main focus when we gather for worship? Why or why not? What are some substitutes that we use to disregard listening and obeying? How might we better listen to obey when we gather for worship? How might we help one another?
3. V. 2 tells us not to be rash and start talking or in many cases try to manipulate God to give us what we want because “God is in heaven and you are on earth.” This is a humbling point. Our critique, our opinion, our desire, our feelings all seem to pale in comparison to one who is transcendent. How might we truly worship this transcendent God? Why have we reduced the transcendence of God in our lives? How have you done that specifically in your life?
4. In verses 4-7 there is a sense of praying to God or making promises to God in order to get what we want and then we just forget or don't do whatever we said we would do. Oftentimes we attempt to manipulate God by saying, “if you do _____ for me, or give me _____ then I will do _____ for you.” We attempt to bargain with God. How have you done this before? What

situations do we tend to do this the most? What do these verses say about this issue? How can you pray to God without attempting to manipulate him?

5. How do we fulfill the things we promise to God? How do we fight against not carrying out in obedience what we say we will do?