

Last week we looked at Ecclesiastes 5:1:

Solomon had now turned his attention to behold worshipers of God, specifically, how they went to the house of God. Were they prepared to sit in the presence of God? Did they enter with hearts of reverence toward God? And did they realize that they were coming into the presence of the Living and Eternal God?

If you recall, we applied this imperative to ourselves; when we come to the gathering of the saints, to the church meeting place to worship God; do you really believe that you are coming to sit in the presence of God? Every one of us should! We MUST if we expect to hear from God and be spoken to by God through His Holy Word.

I think you would agree with me that; to meet irreverently, sinfully, and with unprepared and unsanctified hearts would be dishonoring to God; and it that would “grieve” & “quench” God, the Holy Spirit, whose active presence we MUST have if we would hear from God and see His work in our midst!

And so, (V1): “Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God”

Qoheleth’s warning is that we would NEVER come to the church gathering carelessly, with unprepared hearts, unconfessed sins; or with our minds in the world and on ourselves rather than on God!

(V3): “I will be sanctified in them that come nigh me”; Psalm 89:7

“Be more ready to hear than to give or offer up the sacrifice of fools”

TO HEAR: Here means to hearken or hear with attention, and with a heart intent on obeying God. We are here to pay attention to God! As worshipers of God, we MUST “be more ready to hear” than to give or to offer the sacrifice of fools.

God is never not speaking in our services; even if only the Word is read; if you get nothing, it’s because you are not listening/paying attention!

The Fool has more than one obvious character flaws; one of them is; they are full of words; they are always talking; rarely thinking, and rarely if ever, listening.

Here, for those that would honor God in their worship, Solomon writes, “be more ready to hear, than to offer the sacrifice of fools”. What is the sacrifice of fools?

As we learned last time, hypocritical worship; outwardly pretending.

But also, a sacrifice is something offered up to God; in the NT economy, we, as believers in Christ and a spiritual priesthood are called to make offerings to God in both body and spirit. *Romans 12:1, 1 Peter 2:5, Hebrews 10:19-22*

Coming into the presence of God for worship, or even for private prayer should not be something that we do in haste or without thought and heart preparation, but deliberately and reverently. *Ezekiel 33:30-32*

(V2): “Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter anything before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore, let thy words be few”

Qoheleth immediately warns those that would be “RASH” with their mouths, which is one of the characteristics of a fool; but here, the warning is directed toward rashness of speaking, specifically in the presence of God and in the context of worship.

Solomon is teaching us, that when we gather with the saints to worship, (FIRST) don’t come irreverently and with an unprepared and unsanctified heart; and in (V2), don’t come with a hasty heart. What is a hasty heart?

A hasty heart is an unthinking heart, which is all too ready to actuate the mouth.

Remember the Words of our Lord Jesus Christ concerning the link between the heart and the mouth:

Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks!

Those with hasty hearts are ALL too READY to open their mouths or to say something WITHOUT FIRST stopping and thinking about what they are about to say; here we are warned to be as James admonished every one of us:

James 1:19: Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man (or everyone) be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath". Proverbs 10:19

But I also think Solomon here points specifically to what we speak before God in prayer, when he writes, "let not your heart be hasty to utter anything before God; for God in in heaven, and thou upon earth, therefore, let thy words be few"

Are we just babbling before God in senseless words of formality? Are we REALLY NOT praying at all in "our praying"? Like the Pharisee in Luke 18?

Luke 18:11: "The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself"

Beloved, prayer is when you commune with God from your heart. Prayer is YOU, personally pouring out your soul to your Heavenly Father; in prayer, you hold nothing back, you tell your Father everything!

Prayer is YOU sending up your heartfelt pleas and requests to God; in prayer, you are coming to the "throne of grace" for HELP in your times of need!

Prayer is when you cast your cares upon Him and trust Him with your life and the situations of your life; in prayer, you offer real and genuine thanks to your Father for His grace and mercy toward you personally. In prayer, you ask for courage and strength to continue to live by faith in Christ and in obedience to His Word in this present world, all while you are constantly looking forward to heaven.

And then, Qoheleth compares a fool's voice to nonsensical and disjointed dreams that we have in the night, all of which come from the busy-ness of the day; sometimes the confusion and anxieties and cares of what happened that day.

The fool's voice/words are like our nonsensical dreams; you've had those, dreams that make no sense; so Solomon here seems to compare the fool's words to dreams that make no sense; he is a rambler and a senseless talker.

Ecclesiastes 10:12-14

"Let not your heart be hasty to utter anything before God; for God in in heaven, and thou upon earth, therefore, let thy words be few"

A hasty heart will lead to rash utterances before God. This ought to specifically awaken us to our hearts/words before God when we pray.