

## Ecclesiastes 5:1-20

### III. The Futility of the Circumstances of Life (4:1-5:20)

- A. Evil Oppression (4:1-3)
- B. The Emptiness of Hard Work (4:4-12)
- C. The Emptiness of Political Success (4:13-16)
- D. The Emptiness of Human Religion (5:1-7)

#### 1. Be On Guard. 5:1-3

- 1 (4:17 in Heb text) Guard (**Qal Imp SHAMAR**) your steps as you go to the house of God, and draw near (**Qal Inf QAROBH**) to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools; for they (**fools**) do not know they are doing evil.
- 2 (5:1) Do not be hasty (**Piel IPF BAHAL = to be inwardly agitated; cf Gen 45:3**) in word or impulsive in thought to bring up a matter in the presence of God. For God is in heaven and you are on the earth; therefore let your words be few.
- 3 For the dream comes through much effort, and the voice of a fool through many words.

#### Summary:

1. This chapter begins with a \_\_\_\_\_ about approaching the house of God.
2. As with the Tabernacle, \_\_\_\_\_-evaluation is important.
3. Why we are approaching the house of God is \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Foolish people don't realize that attempts to \_\_\_\_\_ God are evil.
5. Foolish people often give themselves away by the use of a lot of words, not being willing to \_\_\_\_\_.
6. When you are asking God for something, get rid of the inner \_\_\_\_\_.

#### 2. Listen Well. 5:4-7

- 4 When you make a vow (**NEDER = a promise**) to God, do not be late (**ACHAR = to delay or procrastinate**) in paying it, for He takes no delight in fools. Pay (**Piel Imp SHALAM = make peace, satisfy**) what you vow!
- 5 It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay.
- 6 Do not let your speech cause you to sin and do not say in the presence of the messenger (**angel**) of God that it was a mistake. Why should God be angry on account of your voice and destroy the work of your hands?
- 7 For in many dreams and in many words there is **emptiness**. Rather, fear God. (**Lit: The Elohim, fear!**)

**Summary:**

1. Solomon is discussing the \_\_\_\_\_ of keeping your word.
2. Especially to \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The keeping of vows and oaths is part of having \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Failure to keep your word is a \_\_\_\_\_.
5. People who make promises they don't keep are often \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The vow breaker is headed for \_\_\_\_\_ Discipline.
7. We are not to try to \_\_\_\_\_ people with empty promises.
8. Integrity is important in the \_\_\_\_\_ Conflict.

**III. The Futility of the Circumstances of Life (4:1-5:20)**

**D. The Emptiness of Human Religion (5:1-7)**

**E. The Emptiness of Human Riches (5:8-17)**

**1. Power And Advantage. 5:8-9**

- 8 If you see oppression of the poor and denial of justice and righteousness in the province, do not be shocked at the sight, for one official watches over another official, and there are higher officials over them.
- 9 After all, a king who cultivates the field is an advantage to the land.

**Summary:**

1. Do not be shocked when you see a \_\_\_\_\_ struggle between various officials.
2. Those who are motivated by power are constantly looking for ways to \_\_\_\_\_ themselves.
3. They have no real \_\_\_\_\_ for the poor.
4. The balance point is that power itself is not \_\_\_\_\_, because in the hand of a good and wise king, the land will benefit.

**2. Money Will Not Satisfy. 5:10-12**

- 10 He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves abundance with its income. This too is *vanity*.
- 11 When good things increase, those who consume them increase. So what is the advantage to their owners except to look on?
- 12 The sleep of the working man is pleasant, whether he eats little or much. But the full stomach of the rich man does not allow him to sleep.

**Summary:**

1. The love of money will not satisfy and indicates an \_\_\_\_\_ of soul. 1 Tim 6:10
2. The more that is made, the more it is consumed, so what \_\_\_\_\_ profit is there to those who love money?

3. A man with \_\_\_\_\_ who works hard will get more rest than the one who never has enough. Cf Php 4:12-13

3. The Miser And His Loss. 5:13-17

13 There is a grievous evil which I have seen under the sun: riches being hoarded (SHAMAR) by their owner to his hurt.

14 When those riches were lost through a bad investment and he had fathered a son, then there was nothing to support him.

15 As he had come naked from his mother's womb, so will he return as he came. He will take nothing from the fruit of his labor that he can carry in his hand.

16 And this also is a grievous evil-- exactly as a man is born, thus will he die. So, what is the advantage to him who toils for the wind?

17 Throughout his life he also eats in darkness with great vexation, sickness and anger.

Summary:

1. Some people "guard their \_\_\_\_\_" while others "guard their money."

2. It indicates a difference of \_\_\_\_\_, either on the things of God or the things of this world.

3. The miser may lose his wealth and then he has no \_\_\_\_\_ to leave his progeny.

4. If his only hope is in this life, for what \_\_\_\_\_ has he lived?

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F. Conclusion (5:18-20)

18 Here is what I have seen to be good and fitting: to eat, to drink and enjoy oneself in all one's labor in which he toils under the sun during the few years of his life which God has given him; for this is his reward.

19 Furthermore, as for every man to whom God has given riches and wealth, He has also empowered him to eat from them and to receive his reward and rejoice in his labor; this is the gift of God.

20 For he will not often consider the years of his life, because God keeps him occupied with the gladness of his heart.

Summary:

1. If one's only hope is in this life, then they will have their \_\_\_\_\_ in full. Matt 6:1-5

2. Solomon's conclusions are to \_\_\_\_\_ what God has given you.

3. One must constantly keep in mind though the vast \_\_\_\_\_ between the created and the Creator. Rom 1