

Ecclesiastes 5

King James Version (KJV)

5 Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil. (Keep thy foot – make sure you are going into a true house of God; sacrifice of fools – sacrificing to idols, or learning traditions of men. This is evil in God's eyes)

(Preachers who teach traditions of men believe that God approves their work. HE doesn't. We are supposed to teach the Word of God, unchanged, chapter by chapter, and verse by verse. Most churches today preach sermons, written by men, and conduct "services" designed by denominations. They put on a show every Sunday and collect tithes for it)

² Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few. (Listen more than you speak. We don't see the full picture here on earth. God in Heaven does)

³ For a dream cometh through the multitude of business; and a fool's voice is known by multitude of words. (They make up doctrines out of their own imagination – rapture, Easter, etc. Fools talk when they don't even know what they are saying)

⁴ When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. (God doesn't ask a vow from us. If you do make a vow to God, keep it)

⁵ Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay. (Never attend some church that forces people to take vows. Usually, it's about paying tithes. They are in it for the money)

⁶ Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands? (Don't try to dismiss bad behavior with excuses. Stand for what you do, and make yourself accountable for your actions; especially if you make a vow to God and then break it)

⁷ For in the multitude of dreams and many words there are also divers vanities: but fear thou God. (fear= revere – same word in Hebrew.)

Fear God if you try to con Him; revere Him if you love Him and want to serve)

⁸ If thou seest the oppression of the poor, and violent perverting of judgment and justice in a province, marvel not at the matter: for he that is higher than the highest regardeth; and there be higher than they. (God is watching crooked leaders and crooked preachers who "legally" steal from the poor and honest people. They will answer for what they are doing)

⁹ Moreover the profit of the earth is for all: the king himself is served by the field. (We should make sure that we all profit from God's bounty. God owns it all and it is not ours to hoard for ourselves. Help others when you are able)

¹⁰ He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity. (Greed becomes its own little hell. You will never have enough. In the end, it all means nothing) (Look at millionaires and billionaires, today. They never have enough. They use their wealth to control others)

¹¹ When goods increase, they are increased that eat them: and what good is there to the owners thereof, saving the beholding of them with their eyes? (If you are wealthy, you'll have a lot of "friends" – better translation. Why would you want people to like you for your money)

¹² The sleep of a labouring man is sweet, whether he eat little or much: but the abundance of the rich will not suffer him to sleep. (Hard work -> good rest; but the rich, do nothing -> sleeplessness, worry, guarding their piles of money. They worry about investing and more profit)

¹³ There is a sore evil which I have seen under the sun, namely, riches kept for the owners thereof to their hurt. (A lot of money and free time can lead people to sin and corruption)

¹⁴ But those riches perish by evil travail: and he begetteth a son, and there is nothing in his hand. (Ill gotten gains leave no inheritance. If you earned it illegally, or stole it, you won't get to keep it)

¹⁵ As he came forth of his mother's womb, naked shall he return to go as he came, and shall take nothing of his labour, which he may carry away in his hand. (We come into the world naked and broke, and that is how we will leave it)

¹⁶ And this also is a sore evil, that in all points as he came, so shall he go: and what profit hath he that hath laboured for the wind? (Born naked, die naked; don't waste your life on trying to get rich, instead of doing good works for God. Those will reward you in the eternity. The money won't)

(Jesus' uncle, Joseph of Aramathea was wealthy. Jesus didn't sit in a big house and live a life of luxury. HE taught people and saved souls all His life. You can enjoy your wealth, but do good works for God and for people as well)

¹⁷ All his days also he eateth in darkness, and he hath much sorrow and wrath with his sickness. (A man's greed can isolate him from other people. He'll sit along in his big house; for fear that others will try to take his money. If he got rich with ill gotten gains <legal but wrong>, he will suffer that much the worse for it)

¹⁸ Behold that which I have seen: it is good and comely for one to eat and to drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labour that he taketh under the sun all the days of his life, which God giveth him: for it is his portion. (Work honestly for you money. Enjoy the fruits of your labor with people you love. God will bless you for it)

¹⁹ Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour; this is the gift of God. (Being rich is not a sin. God rewards good people who work honestly and treat others well. If you get rich, don't get greedy. Don't become a miser)

²⁰ For he shall not much remember the days of his life; because God answereth him in the joy of his heart. (Our life on earth passes quickly. Only our good works in this life came with us when we die)