

06-Feb-2022 | Discussion Questions
Fear or Folly | Eccl 5:1-7 | Pr Mark Tan

Introduction

Pray. Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Read the Scripture text: Ecclesiastes 5:1-7

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.

2 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.

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

4 When you make a vow to God, do not delay to fulfil it. He has no pleasure in fools; fulfil your vow. **5** It is better not to make a vow than to make one and not fulfil it. **6** 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? **7** Much dreaming and many words are meaningless. Therefore fear God.

Let's get started...

- What initially grabbed your attention in this text? What questions or thoughts arise as you reflect on what its saying?

QUESTIONS

1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.

- a) This text starts out by telling us to guard our steps when we go to worship. Is this something that you have thought much about? How would you describe your typical mindset as you prepare to worship with your PBC family?

- b) Why do you think there is so much emphasis in this text on our speech? What do our words reveal about us?
- c) In light of this passage, how would you answer the question, "What kind of me is God calling me to be, not just in a worship service, but in all of life? In what ways do I need to change and grow in order to live in light of this passage?"
- d) How does this text show you your need for the cleansing, renewing, transforming grace of God offered to us in the gospel of Jesus? In other words, how does this text help me to understand the good news of Jesus?

2. Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.

- a) How does embodying the central truth of this passage help us as a community of faith become more fully and truly ourselves, the people God is creating us to be?
- b) What would it look like for a community of faith like PBC to remember that "God is the one you are to fear?" Given that fear carries the biblical connotation of "reverential awe," how should that inform the way we approach worship, engage in worship, and are transformed by worship?

3. Let's think about how this text applies to our communities.

- a) If we were to be a people who remember that "God is in heaven and you are on earth," how might that inform the way we live our lives in our communities? In other words, Monday through Friday, what would change in the way we work and treat people if we were to remember this?

- b) How is our witness to the city affected when we forget the thrust of what the Sage of Ecclesiastes is getting at in this passage? In other words, if we fail in being people of integrity before God, how would that affect the way we engage our community filled with people made in God's image?

- c) What's the connection between being people of our word before God and being the kind of people God wants for his mission in our community?

CONCLUSION QUESTION

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

PRAYER

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer?