

03-Apr-2022 | Discussion Questions
The Value of Diligence | Ecclesiastes 10:16-11:6 | Pr Mark Tan

1. Read Ecclesiastes 10:16-20.

(a) Compare v.18 with Proverbs 6:6-11. What applications can be drawn from this verse?

(b) Verse 19 describes a person in a "party mode"—what is the attitude of such a person? What activity is v.20 describing? What practical reason does Solomon give for not becoming entangled in this activity?

(c) Does God hold us accountable for "idle words"? (See e.g., Matthew 12:35-37). For gossip? (See Proverbs 11:13; 18:8; 20:19; 26:20).

2. Read Ecclesiastes 11:1-2.

(a) What is Solomon trying to say in v.1? Can you give an example or application of this?

(b) In v.2, Solomon appears to be giving advice on distributing one's resources. What practical application of this can you think of? (Refer to Luke 6:35-38 and especially Luke 16:1-13).

(c) There is also a spiritual application of this found in John 12:24-26. What does "Faith" have to do with all this?

3. Read Ecclesiastes 11:3-6.

(a) What is v.3 teaching us? How should we respond to the uncertainties of life?

(b) In v.4, What practical exhortation based on this verse can you think of? Think about conditions or circumstances you have no control over to help you answer this question.

(c) In v.5 we are told that we “.....do not know the works of God who makes everything”. There are also many other things which we just will not know about—should this change the way we respond to challenges or circumstances in life? Should we worry about things we cannot know or control? Read John 3:5-8 to see a spiritual parallel to this.

(d) Does the fact that God is in ultimate control in any way exempt us from planning and preparing for the future? {Refer to Prov. 13:4; 20:4; 21:25; 24:30-34; 1 Thess. 4:9-12}.

(e) How should a person’s faith and trust in the LORD affect their attitude and behaviour towards the uncertainties of life? Refer to Prov. 27:1; Luke 12:17-20 and James 4:13-15 to see a practical application of this.

(f) In v.6, what is Solomon advising us to do? (See for example notes on vv.1-2 and Ephesians 5:15-16; Colossians 3:15-17).