

**Ecclesiastes V**  
***The Working of a Fool and His Mouth***  
**Ecclesiastes 5:1-7**

- I. THE WORKING OF THE FEET, EARS, AND HANDS (Ecclesiastes 5:1)
  - a. The Keeping of the Path
    - i. The way in which to go
      - 1. What is the way you are taking? (Proverbs 3:6)
      - 2. One should take note of how they are going (Proverbs 4:26)
        - a. If we are to serve God our walk should be just as important to us, as the work that we are accomplishing.
        - b. Too many times in the world, but also in ministry alike, men are far too involved in the work that is being done, but are not concerned about their daily walk. Your testimony, your walk with God, and your family are just as important as the ministry that God has given you to be steward of.
          - i. How is your walk? Is your testimony one that someone can look up to? Are you sincere? Or are you just putting on a front, hoping no one finds out what is really going on deep down in your heart?
          - ii. Is your private life different from what you show in the ministry?
    - ii. How to get there
      - 1. The Lamp of Psalm 119 can clean up your heart and life
        - a. The word is a “lamp unto my feet” (Psalm 119:105a)
          - i. It is interesting to note that the word is called a “lamp” to one’s feet.
          - ii. The word will expose where your feet have been. It will expose, (Proverbs 6:23 – the law) then it will clean you up. (Ephesians 5:13, 26)
        - b. The word is a “light unto my path” (Psalm 119:105b)
          - i. It will lead you (Psalm 43:3a)
          - ii. It will show you where you need to go (Psalm 43:3b)
          - iii. The darker the path, the brighter the light (2 Peter 1:19)
    - iii. The destination
      - 1. The house of God (Similarities of the Temple , and our meeting places today)
        - a. A place that should bring happiness (Psalm 122:1-2)

- b. A place where others should be that love God (Psalm 42:4; 55:14)
      - c. A place to look forward to (Psalm 63:1-3; 84:1-2)
    - 2. The place where you spend time with God
      - a. David longed to spend time with the Lord (Psalm 63:1-3)
      - b. David called upon the Lord in prayer (Psalm 55:17)
      - c. Time with God in secret (Matthew 6:5-6)
      - d. To the throne of grace (Hebrews 4:16)
    - 3. The meeting house for the church today
      - a. A place to come to be encouraged to do right works (Hebrews 10:24)
      - b. A place to come to be challenged to serve God (Hebrews 10:25)
        - i. *Exhorting*; root word *exhort*; means to influence by words, or to strongly urge (someone) to do something
        - ii. Scriptural usage of *exhort*:
          - 1. Exhortation in how to walk (1 Thessalonians 4:1)
          - 2. Exhorting of the gainsayer (Titus 1:9)
          - 3. Exhortation of the young men (Titus 2:6)
          - 4. To exhort one another (Hebrews 3:13; 1 Peter 5:1)
          - 5. Exhort to earnestly contend for the faith (Jude 1:3)
  - b. The Keeping of the Ears
    - i. The appeal
      - 1. “Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.” (Matthew 13:9)
      - 2. “This is the way, walk ye in it,” (Isaiah 30:21)
      - 3. An appeal to the house of Israel and Judah (Zechariah 1:1-4)
    - ii. The refusal
      - 1. They would not hearken, and pulled the shoulder away (Zechariah 7:8-12)
      - 2. A rebellious house that will not hear (Ezekiel 12:2)
    - iii. The acceptance
      - 1. The example of the brethren at Berea (Acts 17:10-12)
      - 2. The obedience of Cornelius to hear Peter (Acts 10:33)
  - c. The Sacrifices Made
    - i. The sacrifice of fools
      - 1. The sacrifice of the wicked is abomination (Proverbs 15:8)
      - 2. The sacrifice of the wicked with a wicked mind (Proverbs 21:27)

3. Examples
    - a. A sacrifice of foolishness (1 Samuel 13:12)
    - b. A sacrifice of Rebellion (1 Samuel 15:1-3, 10-23)
      - i. Rebellion is as witchcraft
      - ii. Stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry
      - iii. Because Saul rejected the word of the LORD
      - iv. The LORD rejected Saul from being king
    4. God's refusal (Isaiah 1:12-15; Hosea 6:6)
  - ii. The sacrifice of the wise
    1. Sacrifices of praise (Psalm 116:17; Hebrews 13:15)
    2. Living sacrifice (Romans 12:1)
    3. The sacrifice of one's ambitions and goals for Christ (Philippians 3:7-8)
    4. A life sacrificed for the Lord and his people (Philippians 2:17)
- II. THE HASTINESS OF THE HEART AND MOUTH (Ecclesiastes 5:2-3)
- a. Be Not Rash With Thy Mouth, and Let Not Your Heart Be Hasty
    - i. History of the word *rash*
      1. Use in scripture
        - a. Appears a total of two times in scripture
        - b. Appears both times in connection with the heart
          - i. Rash with thy mouth (Ecclesiastes 5:2)
          - ii. The rash **shall** understand knowledge (Isaiah 32:4)
      2. Historical usage of the word *rash*
        - a. Rash = "a Scottish word, perhaps from Old English – *ræsc*, or one of its Germanic cognates. [German *rasch* "quick, fast"] Sense of "reckless, heedless of consequences". Is attested from c.1500.
        - b. From a(n) historical view one can see how it relates to the scriptural use.
    - ii. Someone that is rash with their mouth and heart (Ecclesiastes 5:1a)
      1. This individual is quick with what they have to say
        - a. The mouth of the foolish
          - i. The mouth of fools feed on foolishness (Proverbs 15:14)
          - ii. The wicked poureth out evil from their mouth (Proverbs 15:28)
          - iii. "A fool uttereth all his mind" (Proverbs 29:11)
          - iv. A fool is full of words (Ecclesiastes 10:14)
          - v. Example of uttering all that one thinks, before consideration of what is said (Mark 6:23)

- b. The mouth of the wise
  - i. The NT speaks about how one should be slow to speak (James 1:19)
  - ii. A wise man keepeth his thoughts to himself, until the right time to speak (Proverbs 29:11; Ecclesiastes 8:5)
- c. One who maketh a vow
  - i. This can also have a connection to vows (Ecclesiastes 5:4)
  - ii. We will deal with the vows in verse 4.
- 2. Your heart and mouth are greatly connected
  - a. Be not hasty to utter any thing before God
    - i. 24x the words *heart* and *mouth* appear together in scripture
    - ii. The mouth speaks what the heart contains
      - 1. Words of the mouth and meditations of the heart (Psalm 19:14)
      - 2. The heart of the wise teacheth his mouth (Proverbs 16:23)
      - 3. Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh (Matthew 12:3; Luke 6:45)
      - 4. The word is in thy mouth and heart (Romans 10:8)
      - 5. With the heart man believeth, and with the mouth confession is made (Romans 10:10)
  - b. The position observed
    - i. God is in heaven
    - ii. And we are on earth
      - 1. Abraham understood his place (Genesis 18:27)
        - a. Abraham had spoken unto the Lord
        - b. Abraham understood that (himself) he was just dust and ashes. (Psalm 103:14)
      - 2. God is in the heaven (Psalm 115:3)
- b. Dreaming Because a Multitude of Business (Ecclesiastes 5:3a)
  - i. More work = more dreams
  - ii. Just from a practical stand point, the more on your mind, the more dreams you will have.
- c. A Multitude of Words (Ecclesiastes 5:3b)
  - i. The words of a fool
    - 1. He is known for his many words (Ecclesiastes 5:3b)
    - 2. In the multitude of words there is sin (Proverbs 10:19)

3. The lips of a fool will swallow himself up, and the end of his talk is mischievous madness (Ecclesiastes 10:12-14)
  - ii. The words of the wise
    1. Wise in refraining of the lips
      - a. He that refraineth his is wise (Proverbs 10:19)
      - b. The tongue of the wise uses knowledge aright (Proverbs 15:2)
    2. Wise in what is said
      - a. Paul told the church at Corinth that “we” (the apostles) “are fools for Christ’s sake” (1 Corinthians 4:10)
      - b. The foolishness of preaching (1 Corinthians 1:21)
- III. WHEN THOU VOWEST A VOW (Ecclesiastes 5:4-7)
- a. The History of the Vow
    - i. First appearance – used by Jacob (Genesis 28:20)
    - ii. Historical usage: *vow* = “to promise, pledge, dedicate.” Dedicate would be more in line of what the scriptural usage would be here in this passage. Some have also indicated that it means “to give, consecrate, dedicate to God by a solemn promise.”
    - iii. The vow of a Nazarite (Numbers 6:2, 5)
    - iv. A vow made unto God (Ecclesiastes 5:4)
      1. As a nation (Numbers 21:2)
      2. As an individual (Numbers 30:2)
        - a. A man (Numbers 30:2)
        - b. A woman (Numbers 30:3-13)
          - i. The vow made by a woman of her youth could be disallowed by her father (Numbers 30:5)
          - ii. A woman that is married, her husband can disallow the vow (Numbers 30:8)
        - c. Many times a vow would be accompanied with a sacrifice
          - i. Burnt offerings (Psalm 66:13)
          - ii. In the courts of the LORD’S house (Psalm 116:17-19)
    3. Defer not to pay it
      - a. In other words, mean business.
      - b. When you make a promise to the Lord, consider the following:
        - i. It would be a wise thing to condition your promises in the following way(s):
          1. “If it would be thy will...”
          2. “Lord willing...”
          3. “If it be thy will...”
          4. “If you give me grace to do it...”
        - ii. Your word should be as good as your bond.

4. The LORD has no pleasure in fools
  - a. Remember the individual with the rash mouth?
  - b. The LORD is not pleased with someone that promises and then doesn't keep his word.
5. Pay what you've vowed
- b. The Consequences of not keeping a vow (Ecclesiastes 5:5-7)
  - i. Example from scripture – Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-16)
    1. They both lied to God (Acts 5:4)
    2. Ananias immediately dies (Acts 5:5)
    3. Sapphira dies as well (Acts 5:10)
    4. They both had lied to God (Note: The Bible makes a connection in this passage to God and the Holy Ghost; note: verses 3 and 4 of Acts 5)
      - a. During the time of the early church.
      - b. Today you don't see these things happening.
        - i. Note: Could God kill someone for not doing what they have promised that they would do? A. Yes.
        - ii. However, we generally do not see God working in this fashion. Certainly, not through an individual.
          1. These men were apostles of Christ, we do not have them today.
          2. God is not working through signs and wonders today.
      - c. You will note many miracles being done at this time.
        - i. The “makeup” of the church was still many Jews at this point.
        - ii. Also, the Lord was having the apostles confirming the word with these miracles, signs, and wonders (Mark 16:20)
        - iii. The Greeks seek after wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:22)
        - iv. Paul could not heal toward the end of his earthly ministry (2 Timothy 4:16-20)
    - ii. Let not thy mouth cause thee to sin (Ecclesiastes 5:6-7)
      1. Practical lessons from this passage Ecclesiastes 5:4-7)
        - a. We should make good our promises, with God and others.
        - b. We should not allow our mouth to cause our flesh to sin
        - c. Those who vow a vow to the Lord and do not perform it are called “fools” and the Lord “hath no pleasure in fools.” (Ecclesiastes 5:4)
      2. Destruction of your labour
        - a. The promise of Israel to serve God (Joshua 24:15-24)
        - b. Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:5, 10)
      - iii. But fear thou God (Ecclesiastes 5:7)