

The End of the Matter – Ecclesiastes

Ecclesiastes 5:1-7

“Listen before you speak” – October 13, 2019



Introduction

What does true worship look like? What does God tell us about how we are to approach Him? Left to ourselves and what we think, we're likely to try and use God to get something – turning Him as a means to an end or assuming we can come to God on the basis of our own merit. Because God is holy, we need to come to Him as He tells us...the preacher in Ecclesiastes makes it clear.

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Sermon Outline

- I. Be quick to listen and slow to speak (5:1-3)
- II. True worship involves adoration and action (5:4-7)

Read & Discuss

1) Read [Ecclesiastes 5:1-3](#)

What's the difference between *hearing* and *listening* to God? What does the preacher mean by us coming to God to listen? Why is it important that we *first* listen to God as He reveals Himself in the Bible before we go on to what it means to worship?

We talked about 6 ideas to help us take care how we listen: *pray, get plenty of rest, avoid the distractions you can, resolve conflict if possible, read the text being preached on, and talk with others*. Take some time to discuss specific ways you can grow as a listener or ways we can help each other as a church family.

Additional Reading: Malachi 1:8-14, Luke 8:4-18

2) Read [Ecclesiastes 5:4-7](#)

A vow is a promise we make before God (as in marriage or church membership). If we make a vow we should be sure to keep it – if not it's better to not make the vow in the first place. Sometimes people use a vow to cover up something they're hiding. It's an attempt to manipulate – to control the person we're talking with to get what we want.

Can you think of ways you are at risk of trying to manipulate God? In v2, the preacher reminds us that 'God is in heaven and you are on earth.' Knowing that, why is it silly to even try and manipulate God?

How does our attempts to manipulate God leave us with a small, shrinking view of God? In contrast to that, we are called to fear God (v7) – which is another way of talking about *knowing* God (to know, love, trust, and value Him) as He has revealed Himself to us. The worship of God is not something we can manufacture. It is something we need God to do in us, to transform our hearts. Take time to pray...to ask God for a heart that loves, values, knows and trusts Him.

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blessed assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

My sin, oh the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

And Lord haste the day when the faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll; The trump shall resound,
and the Lord shall descend, Even so, it is well with my soul.

-‘It is well’ by *Horatio Spafford*

Additional Reading: Philippians 3:8-9, Isaiah 43:7

Prayer of Response

- 1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?
- 2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand*, *believe*, *desire*, or *do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

*Next week's sermon text: we turn to Ecclesiastes 5:8-6:12
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