**THESE EYES**

**ECCLESIASTES 5:1-7**

The song **These Eyes** was originally song by the Canadian rock group The Guess Who. It was written by Randy Bachman and Burton Cummings in 1968. Junior Walker and the All Stars did a version of it in 1969. The song is a lament from a man who was in a committed relationship in which vows were taken and the love of his life left him. In the song he uses his eyes to describe how he has been touched by the relationship. “These eyes, cry every night for you.” “These eyes watched you bring my world to an end.” “These eyes have seen a lot of loves but their never gonna see another one like I had with you.” Throughout the song he also reminds her of the vows and promises she had now broken. In Ecclesiastes 5:1-5, Solomon points out to his readers the danger of making a vow to the Lord and not keeping it.

THE PROPER ATTITUDE FOR GOING INTO THE HOUSE OF GOD (5:1)

*Enter with a Reverent Spirit (5:1a)*

**Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God.** Qoheleth says when you go to the house of God, you should **keep thy foot**. This means you should enter reverently, reflectively, and with great anticipation. Both Moses and Joshua were told to remove their sandals because the place they were standing was holy ground (Ex. 3:5; Josh. 5:15). This meant they were to give great consideration to where they were standing.

*Be Quick to Hear and Slow to Speak (5:1b)*

**and be more ready to hear** **than to give the sacrifice of fools: for** **they consider not that they do evil.** The Temple was not only a place where sacrifices were offered it was also a place where Word of the Lord was read. The priest had the responsibility of teaching the Word of the Lord (Deut. 33:10). Thus, the Temple was the place worshippers could learn the Ways, Will and Word of the Lord. Solomon says that the worshippers should be more ready to hear the Word of the Lord than to offer **the sacrifice of fools**. The sacrifice of fools is to bring an offering to the Temple without a heart to hear and obey the World of the Lord. Solomon said, “**they consider not that they do evil.”**

MAKING VOWS (5:2-7)

*The Warning Against Making a Vow (5:2)*

**Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter *any* thing before God:**

The warning here is to those who make **rash** (Heb. *baw-hal* meaning quick) and hasty (Heb. *maw-har* meaning hasty) words before the Lord. When coming into the presence of the Lord, the worshipper should count the cost before making a commitment to the Lord. **For God *is* in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few.**  Holy God rules the expansive heaven, therefore words spoken to by earthly beings Him should be few and carefully considered.

*Fools Make Vows and Don’t Pay Them (5:3-5)*

**For a dream cometh through the multitude of business; and a fool's voice *is known* by multitude of words**. When one conducts a lot of business during the day, it shows up when they sleep at night. Just like dreams demonstrates the work done during the day, a fool is known by his many empty words. **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. Better *is it* that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay.** Solomon says if a vow is made to God, it should be kept. The person who makes a vow and does not keep it is a fool and the Lord is not pleased with him. It is better to not make a vow, than to make one and not pay it. There is no harm in not making a vow at all (Deut. 23:22). Jesus went a step further in the New Testament when He said be a person of you word, “let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh from evil” (Matt. 5:37).

*The Results of Breaking a Vow (5:6)*

**Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin.** Don’t allow vows made without much consideration cause you to sin by not fulfilling them. The sin would be making the vow before the angel and breaking it, **neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error.** The angel would be an overseer (a literal angel or the priest) in the Temple to whom the vow was said before. Once you make a vow, you cannot come back to the representative in the Temple and say it was a mistake. Doing this would cause God to **be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands?** Failure to keep a vow, results in God’s judgment upon the worshipper.

*Vows Should Be Considered in the Fear of God (5:7)*

**For in the multitude of dreams and many words there are also divers vanities: but fear thou God.** The NIV say, “Much dreams and many words are meaningless. Therefore fear God.” It is better to weigh your words in of a Holy God than repeat a bunch of meaningless words.