



Finding Your Identity
Amid the Smoke

Ecclesiastes 5

*“Hevel, hevel, everything is utterly
hevel.”*

Ecclesiastes 5:10-12

10 He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is *hevel*. 11 When goods increase, they increase who eat them, and what advantage has their owner but to see them with his eyes? 12 Sweet is the sleep of a laborer, whether he eats little or much, but the full stomach of the rich will not let him sleep.

Ecclesiastes 5:13-15

13 There is a grievous evil that I have seen under the sun: riches were kept by their owner to his hurt, 14 and those riches were lost in a bad venture. And he is father of a son, but he has nothing in his hand. 15 As he came from his mother's womb he shall go again, naked as he came, and shall take nothing for his toil that he may carry away in his hand.

Ecclesiastes 5:16-17

16 This also is a grievous evil: just as he came, so shall he go, and what gain is there to him who toils for the wind? 17 Moreover, all his days he eats in darkness in much vexation and sickness and anger.

“But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.” (1 Timothy 6:9-10)

LOOK UP.
LISTEN IN.
PIPE DOWN.

Ecclesiastes 5:1-2

1 Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. To draw near to listen is better than to offer the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they are doing evil. 2 Be not rash with your mouth, nor let your heart be hasty to utter a word before God, for God is in heaven and you are on earth. Therefore let your words be few.

“Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.” (Hebrews 12:28-29)

“No amount of emphasis on grace can justify taking liberties with God, for the very concept of grace demands gratitude; and gratitude cannot be casual.” (Derek Kidner)

Simplicity
safeguards
sincerity.



Ecclesiastes 5:3-5

3 For a dream comes with much business,
and a fool's voice with many words. 4 When
you vow a vow to God, do not delay paying
it, for he has no pleasure in fools. Pay what
you vow. 5 It is better that you should not
vow than that you should vow and not pay.

Ecclesiastes 5:6-7

6 Let not your mouth lead you into sin, and do not say before the messenger that it was a mistake. Why should God be angry at your voice and destroy the work of your hands? 7 For when dreams increase and words grow many, there is *hevel*; but God is the one you must fear.