

Ecclesiastes 5 Worship True North, Part 5

**What do you think of when you here the word
Worship? - SINGING!**

**A) Singing can definitely be a part of worship
experience – FOR SURE**

B) But worship is really a Life style –

**C) The word worship springs from a Latin word –
that conveys the idea – of Giving worth to something
1) WORTHSHIP –**

**D) And in the Greek it is the word – Proskuneo
which means – to turn and to Kiss**

**Put the two together worship is about giving worth to
God by expressing our Love and Devotion.**

**A) It is acknowledging that God is the most
important being in the Universe.**

**B) He is worthy of all that we can give Him and so
much more.**

**C) And because He is personal – He is worthy of my
love and affection. –**

**But the thing that we need to realize here is that
worship involves a lifestyle.**

**A) It is about having a walk that glorifies God – gives
worth to God –**

**B) That is what Solomon deals with here in the
opening verses of this Chapter.**

**C) So far in the book of Ecclesiastes Solomon has
visited the courtroom, the marketplace, the highway,
and the palace.**

**D) Now he paid a visit to the temple, that magnificent
building whose construction he had supervised.
1) He was there the day that it was finished and he
watched the Glory of God invade the place.**

**E) To the point where the priest were unable to even
stand or perform their duties – brought to the
ground.**

**Solomon declared this building could not contain
God – No way**

**A) But it would be the prescribed place for sinners to
come and meet with God.**

**B) Place of prayer – a place of worship – a place of
Blood shed – sacrifices for sin.**

**C) The whole experience was meant to be a picture
that pointed people to Jesus.**

**1) Jesus is now the prescribed place – i.e. person
where by sinners meet with God.**

Solomon is now old – looking out his Palace window watching pp – come to the temple to worship –

A) Make their Vows – but he notices that something is wrong – People not as sincere in their worship.

B) He addresses the subject here in Ch.5:1-8

C) All the way through this exchange he presents a contrast between the wise & the fool in their approach to God.

Eccl 5:1

Walk prudently when you go to the house of God;

A) Walk prudently –be watchful when you go – not when you get there – but on the way.

B) Worship as a lifestyle – watch the way that you walk – outside of Church.

1) Walk in such a way that your aim is to glorify God with Your life.

Colossians 3:17 “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

1 Corinthians 10:31 “Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”

C) Whatever / wherever - Glorify God.

1) At work – At Home – in your profession and in your play – in your marriage –

D) Whatever you do – do it for God’s glory

1) Work for God – not a pay check

E) Clean the house for God – not the approval of your husband

1 Corinthians 6 – Paul is talking about Sexual immorality – proper sexual conduct

Aa) He Concludes – with this thought

1 Corinthians 6:20

Therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

Bb) Paul from there launches right into Ch.7 – talking about the sex life of a husband and a wife.

B) The point he is making –is a healthy sex life in a marriage is glorifying to God.

C) Whatever area of your life –Board room, bed room or the ball field - let it be worship –

1) Reverence – heart that wants to honor God. Follow His word – His way.

D) When you come to Church and it is time to sing – it will be the overflow – of what is already happening in our hearts. –

E) That is the ideal – Not the norm – Life is so daily and we struggle – flesh { struggle with self

1) Struggle with our motives and desire for validation

Constant battle and struggle – but we know what we are to be aiming at! – Do it for God – live for God.

A) A life that brings glory to God in everything – daily prayer – daily goal – more consistent

B) Never perfect – Worship will become a mindset and not an after thought.

V.1-3 Walk prudently when you go to the house of God; and draw near to hear rather than to give the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they do evil. 2 Do not be rash with your mouth, And let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven, and you on earth; Therefore let your words be few. 3 For a dream comes through much activity, And a fool's voice is known by his many words.

C) First Contrasting statement: The fool comes to talk; the wise man comes to listen.

Solomon says remember why you are here: Coming to meet with God – not for you.

A) Church has become so consumer oriented – what is in it for me – sermon blesses me – all about Me

B) No it is about God - Several worship teams – who is leading – oh man! – Bummer

1) Bummer – I get to go and worship God.

C) That sentiment that led – Soul Survivor – Matt Redman – Tim Hughes- Delirious – Lex Buckley

1) Everyone sit down – simplify – Heart of worship

I love the line in that song – It is all about You Jesus

A) Not all about me –

B) I love fellowship – love great conversations – but it grieves my heart to watch people sit all service on a Sunday – shoot the breeze –talk waves – whatever

C) Not engage in worship – that is the practice of the fool

D) Lord here for you – You are in Heaven – you are glorious – meet with you worship you.

1) Hear from you

E) Prepared my heart in coming – and I am ready to hear – {God will speak – BIG TIME

This whole idea of hasty words I think also applies to prayer !

A) Be aware of who you are talking to – Meeting with the President –or President of your company

B) Well thought out- some pp ramble with God –

The author of *Pilgrim's Progress*, John Bunyan, wrote: “In prayer, it is better to have a heart without words, than words without a heart.”

Spurgeon said, “It is not the length of our prayers, but the strength of our prayers, that makes the difference.”

Next Solomon tackles the issue of making vows V.4-7

4 When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it; For He has no pleasure in fools.

Pay what you have vowed —

5 Better not to vow than to vow and not pay.

6 Do not let your mouth cause your flesh to sin, nor say before the messenger of God that it was an error.

Why should God be angry at your excuse and destroy the work of your hands?

7 For in the multitude of dreams and many words there is also vanity. But fear God.

Second statement:Fools boast; the wise man obeys

A) The OT didn't forbid taking an oath to God but if you took an Oath – you needed to keep it.

B) People make Promises to God – Get me out of this jam – I will..... Africa / tithe/ quit

C) Better not to have vowed than to vow and not pay.

1) Sign up for Children's ministry not show up

D) People make Vows – make excuses for why they don't keep it – error – I shouldn't have done that!

E) Call - take your faith and walk seriously

I will admit I have made my share of Promises to God! – Broken many of them.

A) Thankful that my Christian walk is not based on me being a Promise keeper – but a Promise believer

B) I fail – God doesn't – He keeps his promises – the more I understand that – the more I want to be in His will –

C) The more committed I become – He is faithful even when I am faithless.

1) Praise be to God

Now V.8-9 seem like a bit of a disconnect from the text at first glance they seem out of place.

V.8 If you see the oppression of the poor, and the violent perversion of justice and righteousness in a province, do not marvel at the matter; for high official watches over high official, and higher officials are over them.

9 Moreover the profit of the land is for all; even the king is served from the field.

Some like to say that v.8 is speaking about earthly rulers only – Mayors and Governors senators Pres.

A) But it seems to me that one who is higher than all of them here is the Lord.

B) And Solomon is challenging them here who have come from the temple and worship that when you see injustice that happens don't be overwhelmed

C) Don't be discouraged by them – because there is one who is the ruler over all.

1) He is just – He is fair

9 Moreover the profit of the land is for all; even the king is served from the field.

D) Rains on the just and the unjust

Solomon who had all riches – extreme wealth and grandeur surrounding him – knew it was nothing without grain.

Now as Solomon moves into v.10-20 He is going to Challenge some myths – MYTH BUSTERS

A) Myths about wealth. – No one knew more about wealth than Solomon. Riches man possibly ever.

B) God gave him wisdom – first satisfied with that

1) Life became about accumulation

C) Now as an old man looking back and wants us to know – certain things

1) Out to destroy certain myths.

#1 Wealth Satisfies. Eccl 5:10

10 He who loves silver will not be satisfied with silver; Nor he who loves abundance, with increase. This also is vanity.

A) Solomon started off believing that the heart could only be satisfied with God

B) Fell into the lie – Satisfied by riches

1) People think only make my first million

In 1923, at the Edgewater Beach Hotel in Chicago, eight of the world's wealthiest financiers met. Collectively these 8 tycoons controlled more wealth than was in the United States Treasury. For years newspapers and magazines printed their success stories and urged young people to follow their examples. Here are their stories.

Charles Schwab, The president of the largest independent steel company, lived on borrowed money for five years before he died penniless.

Howard Hopson The president of North America's largest gas company, went insane.

Arthur Cutten The greatest wheat speculator, died abroad, and in debt.

Richard Whitney The president of the New York Stock Exchange, was sent to Sing Sing Penitentiary.

Albert Fall, A member of the President's cabinet, was pardoned from prison so he could die at home.

Jesse Livermore The greatest "bear" on Wall Street history, committed suicide.

The president of the Bank of International Settlement, Leon Fraser, also died a suicide.

Ivar Krueger The head of the Worlds greatest monopoly, killed himself.

Each of these men learned well the art of earning money, but it would seem that not one of them had ever learned how to live the "rich life".

Myth #1 Wealth Satisfies

Myth #2 Money solves every problem.

**V.11 When goods increase,
They increase who eat them;
So what profit have the owners
Except to see them with their eyes?**

There is no escaping the fact that we need a certain amount of money in order to live in this world, but money *of itself* is not the magic "cure-all" for every problem.

In fact, an increase in wealth usually creates new problems that we never even knew existed before. **Solomon mentioned one: relatives and friends start**

showing up and enjoying our hospitality. All we can do is watch them eat up our wealth.

1 Kings 4:22-23

22 Now Solomon's provision for one day was thirty kors of fine flour, sixty kors of meal, 23 ten fattened oxen, twenty oxen from the pastures, and one hundred sheep, besides deer, gazelles, roebucks, and fattened fowl.

B) More mouths to feed.

**C) Cyrus
400 sheep
300 lambs
100 oxen
30 horses
30 deer
400 geese
300 pigeons
600 small fowl
3,750 gallons of wine
75 gallons of fresh milk
75 gallons of sour milk**

Myth #3 Wealth brings peace of mind (v. 12).

**12 The sleep of a laboring man is sweet,
Whether he eats little or much;**

But the abundance of the rich will not permit him to sleep.

The late Joe Louis, world heavyweight boxing champion, used to say, “I don’t like money actually, but it quiets my nerves.”

A) But Solomon said that possessing wealth is no guarantee that your nerves will be calm and your sleep sound.

According to him, the common laborer sleeps better than the rich man.

The Living Bible expresses verse 12 perfectly: “The man who works hard sleeps well whether he eats little or much, but the rich must worry and suffer insomnia.”

John D. Rockefeller is an example of a man whose life was almost ruined by wealth.

At the age of fifty-three, Rockefeller was the world’s only billionaire, earning about a million dollars a week.

But he was a sick man who lived on crackers and milk and could not sleep because of worry.

When he started giving his money away, his health changed radically and he lived to celebrate his ninety-eighth birthday!

Myth #4 *Wealth provides security* (RD vv. 13–17).

A) The picture here is of two rich men. One hoarded all his wealth and ruined himself by becoming a miser.

B) The other man made some unsound investments and lost his wealth.

C) He was right back where he started from and had no estate to leave to his son.

1) He spent the rest of his days in the darkness of discouragement and defeat, and he did not enjoy life.

Like all of us, he brought nothing into the world at birth, and he took nothing out of the world at death

A) Reminded of our Lord’s parable about the Rich Fool (Luke 12:13–21).

B) The man thought all his problems were solved when he became rich, but immediately he was faced with providing bigger barns for his wealth.

1) NOT RICH TOWARD GOD!

C) That is the point in all of this – poor or rich – R you rich in God.

1) Rich in relationship

2) Rich in faith – Big God

3) Rich in experience

D) Rich in reward.

V.18-20

18 Here is what I have seen: It is good and fitting for one to eat and drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labor in which he toils under the sun all the days of his life which God gives him; for it is his heritage. 19 As for every man to whom God has given riches and wealth, and given him power to eat of it, to receive his heritage and rejoice in his labor — this is the gift of God. 20 For he will not dwell unduly on the days of his life, because God keeps him busy with the joy of his heart.

Rather than living for wealth busy accumulating wealth
– better to be busy for God.

can bring. In the closing verses of the chapter (vv. 18–20), he affirmed once again the importance of accepting our station in life and enjoying the blessings that God gives to us.

The thing that is “good and fitting” (v. 18, NKJV) is to labor faithfully, enjoy the good things of life, and accept it all as the gracious gift of God. Solomon gave us this wise counsel before in 2:24, 3:12–13, and 3:22, and he will repeat it at least three more times before he ends his “sermon.”