



## The Danger of Talking

Ecclesiastes 5:1-7

**The prayer of a desperate man on the roof of his floating house:** “God if you will rescue me from this flood I will give half of my money to the poor and become a priest.”

**Problem:** It is so easy to sin before God with our words and our broken promises—and be absolutely oblivious about it.

**Opening Bracket:** Be careful how you draw near to God (He is awesome and to be feared.) (v 1a)

- Word Command #1: Draw near to God to listen. (v 1b)
- Word Command #2: Do not offer the sacrifice of fools. (v 1c)
- Word Command #3: Do not be rash with your mouth. (v 2a)
- Word Command #4: Do not be hasty to bring up a matter with God. (v 2b)
- Word Command #5: Let your words be few before God. (v 2c)
- Word Command #6: Do not make the vow of many words. (v 3)
- Word Command #7: Do not delay in paying a vow to God. (v 4a)
- Word Command #8: Pay what you vow to God. (v 4b)
- Word Command #9: Do not let your mouth cause you to sin. (v 6a)
- Word Command #10: Do not renege on a vow by saying it was a mistake. (v 6b)

**Closing Bracket:** Fear God (He is awesome and to be feared.) (v 7b)

**For Instance:** Peter (Matt 17:1-13). James (1:19 and 3:1-12). Job (Job 38:1-40:2 and 40:3-5; also 40:6-34 and 42:1-6).

**Core Truth:** Be careful how you come to God ... with few words and true words demonstrate your reverence for Him.

- We would be more careful about our approach and our words before God if we had a better grasp on the majesty, power and awesomeness of God. (Job 41:5, 6)
- Would we want God to be as careless with His promises to us as we are with our promises to Him? (For example, John 3:16 or 1 John 1:9 or Matthew 28:20)

**Live differently—be transformed by the renewing of your mind.** Therefore, in order to love God more and be more like His Son:

- I will listen to God—rather than always rushing into prayer with my many words.
- I will not make excuses to God for not keeping my promises—rather I will repent.
- I will not make any rash vows to God—rather I will be cautious with my words.
- I will cultivate a greater reverence for God by reflecting on Who He is.

# “Walking Papers”

Practical helps for walking the Christian walk each day this week.

**Core Truth:** Be careful how you come to God ... with few words and true words demonstrate your reverence for Him.

- **Today:** How much do you listen to God? How much do you talk to God?
- **Monday:** Make a list of all the things you need God’s direction on.
- **Tuesday:** Have you broken promises that you need to confess to God?
- **Wednesday:** Read Matthew 17:1-13. Do you see applications for yourself?
- **Thursday:** Read Job 38:1-40:6. Do you see applications for yourself?
- **Friday:** Read James 1:19 and 3:1-12. Do you see applications for yourself?
- **Saturday:** What would you be willing to do in order to better understand the majesty, power, and awesomeness of God?

# “Companionship Papers”

Dialogue questions for helping each other in the Christian walk this week.

## GETTING STARTED:

- Do you know any “E. F. Hutton” people—who mostly listen and when they open their mouth always have something wise to say? How did they get there?
- Do you know any “running off at the mouth” people? How did they get there?

## LOOK AT THE TEXT:

- In Eccl 5:1-7 what is the central command?
- In Eccl 5:1-7 what is the underlying reason for the central command?
- What is a vow?
- Why are vows so dangerous?
- Read James 1:19 and 3:1-12. Why is the tongue so dangerous?
- Read Matthew 17:1-13. Why was it wrong for Peter to blurt out his offer?
- Read Job 40:3-5 and 42:1-6. What happened to Job here? What recalibration took place? What did Job learn that he had not known about God?
- Are there other Biblical examples of people who made rash vows without thinking? What were the outcomes of those vows?

## LIVE DIFFERENTLY:

- Is God convicting you of ways that you have used your words—rashly, callously, unconsidered, foolishly, crassly, or too many—to dishonor God and harm others?
- How could you do a better job of just being silent before God and listening to Him?