



Sharpen Your Focus

Test: Ecclesiastes 5:1-20

Series: Escaping Futility, Enjoying Fulfillment,

The Book of Ecclesiastes, #4

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Theme: **True fulfillment requires a sharp focus.**

Three examples of a fuzzy, futile focus.

1. Sloppy, self-centered worship. (1-7)
2. Surprise at oppression. (8-9)
3. Seeking security in things. (10-17)

Three examples of a fine-tuned, fulfilling focus.

1. Reverence for God. (7)
2. Responsible worship. (1-5)
3. Recognize, receive and enjoy God's blessings. (18-20)

In My Life This Week

As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.

Monday. Read 5:1-7. How good are you at *guarding your steps* in worshiping God? Solomon tells us to remember God is sovereign God “in heaven” (verse 1) and to *fear or reverence* for Him (verse 7). He also tells us not to do so is foolish. Review your recent times of public and private worship, evaluating your approach to God. Commit to keep your focus sharp on this.

Tuesday. Read 5:1-7. Worship is work! It is not passive, nor are its benefits received without your responsible involvement. When Solomon tells us to *draw near to listen*, the language includes both paying attention and obeying. This takes discipline. Do you find yourself easily distracted in public and private worship? Make a conscious effort to keep focused, asking God to help you and alert you when distractions appear.

Wednesday. Read 5:1-7 again today, with special emphasis on verses 4-7. God takes our promises seriously. What promises have you made to God since the beginning of the year, the last six weeks or so? Careless, rash or casual promises open us to God’s discipline. Keep your focus sharp on this.

Thursday. Read 5:8-20. King Solomon tells us not to be surprised at oppression and to be careful not to focus on material things. His conclusion in verses 18-20 should be familiar by now — it’s the third time he has made this point. Evaluate how you are doing recognizing, receiving and enjoying God’s blessings today and over the last few days.

Friday – Saturday. On Sunday we plan to consider 6:1– 7:29. Read through these two chapters in preparation for our time together on Sunday.