

# SERMON OUTLINE Ecclesiastes 5:1-7

How (and How Not) to Draw Near to God

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## **HOW TO DRAW NEAR TO GOD**

*First, guard your steps (1a)*

*Second, draw near to listen (1b)*

*Third, don't make flippant, ignorant offerings to God (1b)*

*Fourth, don't be rash, hasty, or many with your words in prayer (2a, c, 3, 7a)*

*Fifth, know your place (2b)*

*Sixth, keep your word (4-6)*

*Seventh, fear God (7b)*

## **WE COME TO GOD THROUGH CHRIST ALONE**

# SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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## MAIN POINT

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The big idea of this passage is that God alone establishes how we must draw near to Him. Only fools believe they can come to God on their own terms. The wise and faithful fear God and come as He calls. The main takeaways, then, are to consider carefully your approach to God, repent of any man-made ways, and look to Jesus who alone provides access to God.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. Have you ever thought about what matters to God in relation to our Sunday morning worship?
3. Have you ever thought about what God requires for us to come before Him in a manner pleasing to Him?
4. Do you guard your steps when you come to church? If not, why not? If so, what does it usually look like?
5. Do you tend to talk or listen more to God? Have you made the connection between understanding and obedience?
6. Have you ever bought into the lie that God's only requirement is sincerity?
7. What do your prayers tend to be like? Are you ever "rash" or overly wordy with your prayers? Why/not?
8. Do you think you're ever too casual in your approach to God? How does Job 38 help correct that?
9. Have you made a vow to God? What was it? Did you keep it?
10. What does it mean to "fear God" in the right way? Do you?
11. Which of the seven worship principles do you most need to understand and apply in greater measure?
12. What do you think of Pastor Dave's claim that God manifests His presence and grace more among His gathered people?
13. How does faith in Jesus change our approach to God? What doesn't change?
14. In what way/s did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

## AREAS OF APPLICATION

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15. Identify three ways you could better guard your steps when you come to church on Sundays.
16. Memorize Psalm 19:9-10 and start asking God to cause you to really believe it.
17. Learn to avoid rash, unnecessarily wordy prayers by praying more through specific passages of the Bible (Ephesians 3:8-12).
18. Make a vow to God and keep it this week.
19. Pick one of the seven worship principles of Ecclesiastes 5:1-7 to apply in a very specific way for next Sunday.
20. Ask two different people in your family or DG (1) One thing they got from this sermon, and (2) How you can pray for them.
21. Pick one specific thing you mean to do differently, with the Spirit's help, as a result of the things you heard in this text/sermon.

## PRAYER POINTS

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22. Adoration. Praise God that He is good. Praise God that His Word is true, righteous, most desirable, and sweeter than honey. Praise God that He is in heaven. Praise God that He always keeps His promises. Praise God that He is worthy to be feared.
23. Confess. Confess your sins of unguarded worship. Confess your sins of telling God rather than listening to God. Confess your sins of ignorance of God's will. Confess your sins of being rash with your prayers and not keeping your word.
24. Thanksgiving. Thank God that He has made Himself accessible in Jesus. Thank God that He has given His word to know His will. Thank God that He keeps all His promises to all His people and for giving you pastors and friends to point you to Him.
25. Supplication. Ask God to make us a church that draws near to God as He has called. Ask God to heal those who's sickness keeps them from being able to gather. Ask God to grant us an appropriate sense of His special presence and grace in our gathering. Ask God to teach us to pray. Ask God to teach us to fear Him. Ask God to fill us with love for Him and one another.