

SERMON OUTLINE Ecclesiastes 10:1-7

The Preacher's Proverbs Concerning Folly

INTRODUCTION

THE PREACHER'S PROVERBS CONCERNING FOLLY

A Little Folly Outweighs Much Wisdom (1)

The Heart of Folly and Wisdom (2)

Fools Are Always Found out by their Folly (3)

The Wise Are Marked by Self-Control (4)

Folly Is Found Everywhere (5-7)

CONCLUSION

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

The big idea of these few verses is that folly is destructive, dangerous, recognizable, unnecessary, and prevalent. And the main takeaway is to weed out the folly in our lives and the lives of those we love and replace it with the wisdom of God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. Have you given much thought to the blessing it is to have lay elders who are so eager to and gifted at shepherding us?
3. What is your response when you encounter poetry in the Bible? Do you slow down enough to experience the images, follow the flow of thought, ask questions of the poem's details and structure, and be impacted by the poem as the poet intended?
4. How do you define folly?
5. How have you been impacted by fools and their folly? Have you ever experienced a little folly doing a lot of damage?
6. Do you recognize the fact that many of the choices you make during the day are between wisdom and folly?
7. Would you say that you have a good handle on the corrosive nature of folly or does it tend to seem less consequential to you?
8. How do you usually recognize a fool? Do you tend to do so quickly or does it take a while?
9. What is your typical response to fools or foolishness? What is the typical outcome of your response?
10. Where do you usually find foolish people? Why do you think that is?
11. Why do you think that folly is so attractive and prevalent?
12. How have you experienced Jesus as the wisdom of God? How have others responded as you lived accordingly?
13. In what way/s did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

14. Write a note of thanks to your shepherding elder. Be specific in your encouragement.
15. Spend some time using the five poetry tools on a Psalm this week (get them from the website/manuscript).
16. Look for pockets of folly and the presence of fools in your daily life. With the Spirit's help, get rid of them and replace them with wisdom and the wise.
17. Make a plan to respond with steadiness and calmness in a likely encounter with a fool this week.
18. Memorize a passage of Scripture that speaks directly to an area in which you are tempted toward folly.
19. 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.
20. 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

21. Adoration. Praise God that He is perfectly pure, holy, and righteous. Praise God that He is sovereign, wise, and good. Praise God that He is loving, kind, and just. Praise God that He is patient, gracious, and merciful.
22. Confess. Confess areas of folly in your life that you have embraced and hurt others by it. Confess ways you've been drawn to folly. Confess ways you've responded unwisely to folly and made things worse by doing so.
23. Thanksgiving. Thank God for forgiving you of your folly and the harm it has caused others. Thank God for restoring things your folly has corrupted. Thank God for protecting you from folly and giving you wisdom. Thank God for the wise people in your life. Thank God that He has opened your eyes to Jesus as the wisdom of God.
24. Supplication. Ask God to give wisdom to the fools in your life—especially Jesus. Ask God to give us the wisdom and courage to practice church discipline as we ought. Ask God to help us respond rightly to the folly we encounter in life.