

SERMON OUTLINE Ecclesiastes 10:12-15, 18

The Preacher's Proverbs Concerning Folly - Part 3

INTRODUCTION

THE PREACHER'S PROVERBS CONCERNING THE WORDS OF THE FOOLISH (12-14)

Self-Destructive (12)

Thoroughly Foolish (13)

Evil Madness (13)

Verbose (14)

Ignorant (14)

THE PREACHER'S PROVERBS CONCERNING THE WORK OF THE FOOLISH (15, 18)

Extraordinarily Tiresome (15)

Extraordinarily Inefficient (15)

Extraordinarily Lazy (18)

Extraordinarily Negligent (18)

CONCLUSION

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

The big idea of this passage is that God's people are called to bless others through wisdom, but a fool's words and works bring nothing but harm to himself and those around him. And from that, the main takeaways are to seek the Lord's help in speaking graciously, being humble, and working excellently.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. Does it surprise you to know that folly is one of the most significant themes of Ecclesiastes? Why do you think it is?
3. How do the fools in your life talk (or how do you talk when you're talking foolishly)?
4. What is the primary reason you talk to other people? How often does your speech have its intended effect?
5. Can you think of a recent time in which someone spoke words that were clearly intended to be a blessing to you? Did it work?
6. Can you think of a recent time in which you intentionally spoke words intended to build someone up? Did it work?
7. Have you seen someone speak in a way that clearly ended up hurting themselves? Have you?
8. Is it news to you that every word we speak is both moral (godly or ungodly) and mental (comes from something we believe)?
9. Would anyone refer to you as verbose?
10. Do you agree with this statement: If you are wise, you will pick your words with more care than you pick almost anything else.
11. Have you ever worked with a fool (or as a fool)? What was it like?
12. Which of the four characteristics of a fool's work have you seen most: Extraordinarily tiresome, inefficient, lazy or negligent?
13. How do God's words and work affect yours?
14. In what way/s did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

15. Speak graciously. Take captive every word this week. Intentionally build people up with all your words. Talk less.
16. Be humble. Be open to correction. Be eager to repent of your sin and folly. Ask someone to help you see your folly.
17. Work excellently. Find a way to get better at your job. Go to bed tired because you worked hard all day at producing good.
18. Share generously. Share the good news of Jesus with someone. Share the fruits of your labor with someone.
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 always gracious. Praise God that His words always bless His people. Praise God that He is wise, righteous, and omniscient. Praise God that He is perfectly efficient. Praise God that He is omnipotent. Praise God that He never grows tired. Praise God that He is never late. Praise God that He is a perfect restorer.
22. Confess. Confess your sin and folly related to your speech; for speaking to take from others, for speaking in destructive ways, for speaking ignorant wickedness, for being verbose, for speaking in ignorance. Confess your sins related to your work; for being lazy, unproductive, selfish, inefficient, negligent, and incompetent. Confess your folly.
23. Thanksgiving. Thank God for His grace, mercy, love, help, and healing. Thank God for showing you His glory. Thank God for giving you His words and the Word. Thank Jesus for being the way, the truth, and the life. Thank God for His provision.
24. Supplication. Ask God to help our church speak and work like Him and for His glory. Ask God help us to be generous with our words and work. Ask God to make us produce good for one another and the whole world in His name.