



Dig Deeper @Home – “Searching for Meaning”
Complement to sermon on October 30, 2016 – “In Religion”

MEMORIZE – Ecclesiastes 12:13

The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of all people.

READ Ecclesiastes 5:1-7

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. What is this passage revealing about God and what is it revealing about us as humans?
2. If the above is true, what needs to change in your life? What will that look like?
3. Verse 1 says “to draw near to listen is better than to offer the sacrifice of fools” when you “go to the house of God.”
 - a. What is the house of God? Where is this today? (hint: 1 Corinthians 6:19)
 - b. With 1st Corinthians in mind, how do we draw near to listen? What would this look like in your life?
 - c. What is the sacrifice of fools? (hint: v2&3) In what ways are you guilty of committing the sacrifice of fools?
4. Read verses 4 & 5 again and compare and contrast this with Matthew 5: 33-37.
5. Read Hebrews 10: 5-23. In light of this, what does it mean to “guard our step” when we go to the house of God? How do we do this?

Bottom Line - Give a one or two sentence summary of the scripture:

Experiential

Sometimes activities help us to understand and process biblical truths. The one below is a suggestion for how to experience the truths of Ecclesiastes 5: 1-7. Feel free to use one of these or any you might come up with.

A different start to the day

Solomon encourages us to draw near to listen. With that in mind, begin every day this week in prayer simply asking “Lord, what would you have me do today?” Then wait silently and listen for His voice. Keep a journal of what things come to you in those times of silence. If you need to, start small with 30 seconds of silence and work your way up. And don’t be frustrated if at first you don’t seem to hear anything. Get in the habit of starting your day this way and you will soon develop a posture of listening for God that will carry throughout your day.

SING (a suggested song to sing. Use this or any song you might want to sing)

Boldly I Approach - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xx94Fg4qZr8>

Don’t sing this the first time through. Simply listen to the words and let this be a time of drawing near to God. Feel free to listen to the song several times and draw near in prayer and sing after you’ve allowed yourself a time of silence.

Mennonite Hymnal #73 – Be Still, my Soul

This hymn from the 1800s reminds our souls of the posture we are to have before the Lord.

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

Sending prayer based on the lesson: Father, grant us the discipline we need to silence ourselves before you. As we do, may you open our ears to hear clearly from the Holy Spirit all throughout the day and the courage to follow in obedience. May we walk like Christ, who was so dependent on You that His words were not His own, but the words that You gave Him to speak. Amen.