### Ecclesiastes

## Chapter 5

1‘Watch your feet as you enter God’s House  
 (Whenever you go there to listen),  
 And bring an offering that’s better  
 Than the rest of the gifts of the foolish  
 Who are unaware of the evil that comes.  
  
 2‘Don’t let your mouths speak too quickly  
 Or let your hearts be too hasty  
 When making [a vow] in the presence of God.  
 For, God is up in the heavens,  
 And you’re here on the earth;  
 So, let your words remain few.  
  
 3‘As many [concerns] bring [bad] dreams;  
 Many words are heard from the voices of fools.  
 4So, when you make a vow to [your] God,  
 Don’t waste any time to repay it,  
 Since He doesn’t like vows that are foolishly made.  
  
 ‘So, whatever you vow, you should bring!  
 5And it’s best that you don’t make a vow  
 Than to vow and then fail to pay it!  
  
 6‘Don’t let your mouth lead your flesh into sin,  
 And don’t say too much in the presence of God.  
 [Don’t say] stupid things,  
 And don’t make Him angry with your words,  
 Or He’ll bring destruction to the works of your hands.  
  
 7‘So, although you may have many daydreams and follies,  
 Fear to say many words,  
 Whenever you stand before God.  
  
 8‘If you see the needy extorted and robbed  
 By lawsuits or other legal actions;  
 Don’t give this too much attention.  
 For, from above, the High One keeps watch…  
 He sees all that happens under [the sky].  
  
 9‘And although the land’s bounty is there for us all,  
 Even a king needs his fields to be worked.  
  
 10‘But for those who love silver, there’s never enough,  
 And with plenty comes even more young…  
 And indeed, this too is just folly.  
 11For, when you have many good things,  
 There’ll also be many to eat it.  
 So what value is there in getting much more,  
 When it’s just to be seen by your eyes?  
  
 12‘Sleep is always sweet to a slave,  
 Whether he has little or much…  
 But the rich never get enough sleep.  
  
 13‘I’ve seen all this illness under the sun…  
 For there are those who store up much treasure,  
 14Which is thereafter lost in hard times.  
 So, wealth is just a distraction from bad.  
  
 ‘When a man fathers a son,  
 The child arrives here with nothing at all.  
 15Naked he comes from his mother’s womb,  
 And when he dies, he leaves the same way…  
 With nothing to show for his efforts,  
 And nothing to carry back in his hands.  
  
 16‘Indeed, this is illness that’s evil;  
 For, as he arrives is how he returns.  
 And what advantage has he gained from his efforts,  
 When they’re [blown away] in the wind?  
  
 17‘In darkness and mourning, men fill their days…  
 In anger, illness, and rage.  
 18Yet, I’ve seen good in the things that we eat and drink,  
 And I’ve also seen good from man’s efforts…  
 In the things he’s accomplished under the sun,  
 And in the portion that God has allowed him.  
  
 19‘For, those who gain wealth and possessions from God,  
 Are allowed to own them and eat them.  
 Thus, they reap the joy of their efforts…  
 And these are [the true] gifts from God!  
 20So, although they’ll forget most days of their lives,  
 God amuses them with the joy in their hearts.