

Ecclesiastes 5-6 Life and Riches

Speech and Vows (5:1-7)

In chapters 5 and 6 Solomon turns to some more practical advice, including being careful of what we say.

- Why go prudently to the house of God (Ecc 12:13, Prov 9:10)?
- What is the sacrifice of fools (1 Samuel 15:22)?
- Why should we avoid hasty words (James 1:19)?
- Why should our words be few (Prov 10:19)?
- Why shouldn't we delay keeping vows (James 4:17)?

Vanity of Riches (5:8-17)

Solomon returns to the topic of the futility of riches.

- Why should we not be surprised at oppression and injustice (v8)?
- Why does one official need to watch over another (v8)?
- Who benefits from the profit of the land (v9)?
- Can having things ever satisfy us (v10)?
- When we have more, do we just find more demands on our resources (v11)?
- How does abundance prevent sleep (v12)?
- How can riches hurt us (v13, 1 Timothy 6:9-10, James 5:3)?
- Will riches last (v16, Matthew 6:19-21)?
- What can we actually take out of this life (v15, Mark 8:36-37)?
- How can a focus on riches leave us sick and sorrowful (v17)?

Gift of God (5:18-20)

If riches are vain, how should we think about the good things of this life?

- Where do the good things of this life come from (v18, James 1:17)
- Can we dwell unduly on this life (v20)?

Fleeting Riches (6:1-6)

In chapter 6 we saw that God is the one who gives good things. Now, Solomon addresses having good things, but being too focused on riches to actually enjoy them.

- Can we have everything we desire and still not be happy (v2)?
- In what way can a stillborn child be better than a rich man (v3-6)?
- Can we be rich and still not see goodness (v6)?

Vanity (6:7-12)

Under the sun, we labor without being satisfied.

- How is seeing better than desiring (v9)?
- Can the things we labor for, in any way, make us better (v11)?
- Who does know what is good for man (v12, Jeremiah 10:23)?