

CHASING THE WIND

Part 10: Truth and Flies

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Ecclesiastes 10

¹As dead flies give perfume a bad smell, so a little folly outweighs wisdom and honor.

One small flaw can spoil an entire reputation and soul

²The heart of the wise inclines to the right, but the heart of the fool to the left.

³Even as fools walk along the road, they lack sense and show everyone how stupid they are.

There is a right way and a wrong way to walk out life

The right way honors God with every step

The wrong way chooses self with every step

But you can change the way you walk with one wise decision to follow Jesus

⁴If a ruler's anger rises against you, do not leave your post; calmness can lay great offenses to rest.

Stand firm in the truth that our God is greater

⁵There is an evil I have seen under the sun, the sort of error that arises from a ruler: ⁶Fools are put in many high positions, while the rich occupy the low ones. ⁷I have seen slaves on horseback, while princes go on foot like slaves.

Immaturity is exalted while maturity is often ignored

In light of this truth, what do we do?

⁸Whoever digs a pit may fall into it; whoever breaks through a wall may be bitten by a snake. ⁹Whoever quarries stones may be injured by them; whoever splits logs may be endangered by them. ¹⁰If the ax is dull and its edge unsharpened, more strength is needed, but skill will bring success. ¹¹If a snake bites before it is charmed, the charmer receives no fee.

Keep working smarter

¹² Words from the mouth of the wise are gracious, but fools are consumed by their own lips. ¹³ At the beginning their words are folly; at the end they are wicked madness— ¹⁴ and fools multiply words. No one knows what is coming— who can tell someone else what will happen after them?

Surround yourself with gracious people of few words

¹⁵ The toil of fools wearies them; they do not know the way to town.

Pick a destination

¹⁶ Woe to the land whose king was a servant and whose princes feast in the morning. ¹⁷ Blessed is the land whose king is of noble birth and whose princes eat at a proper time—for strength and not for drunkenness.

Celebrate appropriately

¹⁸ Through laziness, the rafters sag; because of idle hands, the house leaks. ¹⁹ A feast is made for laughter, wine makes life merry, and money is the answer for everything.

Don't misinterpret this verse — begin with the ending!

²⁰ Do not revile the king even in your thoughts, or curse the rich in your bedroom, because a bird in the sky may carry your words, and a bird on the wing may report what you say.

Watch what you say

Next Steps

We offer classes every quarter to help you grow in wisdom, maturity, and love — for God, others, and yourself. A number of classes start this week, so ask God what he wants to teach you in this season of the year, check out the class options in this program and CTK Life, and sign up today at the Connection Point.

Small Group Questions

- 1) What did you do for the 4th of July?
- 2) Have you ever had a small character flaw that cost you in a big way? Care to share?
- 3) How would you describe the difference between a wise person and a fool?
- 4) Read Ecclesiastes 10:12-13. Have you ever seen a gracious word defuse a tense situation? What happened?
- 5) What ways have you found to keep gossip in check in your life?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?