

Life Lessons: The Quest for Meaning

True Meaning is Lost in Worldly Pursuits: Vain Piety

Ecclesiastes 5:1-7

1. Approach God in a spirit of reverence. (1a)
 - a. Draw near and listen up because the Lord has something to say. (1b)
 - b. Determine your words carefully when you pray, because the Lord is not deceived. (2)
 - c. Deny the temptation to make big promises because the Lord knows your heart. (3)

2. Avoid neglecting our responsibilities.
 - a. Devote yourself to integrity because the Lord is listening. (4,5)
 - b. Do not make vain promises because the Lord will hold you accountable. (6)
 - Galatians 6:7 | Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.

 - c. Despise the temptation to talk the talk but not walk the walk. (7a)
 - Matthew 6:5-6 | And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

3. Acknowledge that fear of God is the remedy. (7b)
 - Revelation 4:5 | Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come.