

## Ecclesiastes 5:1-7 Discussion Questions

1. The theme of God's presence with His people—God being with us—runs from the Garden of Eden in Genesis to the New Jerusalem in Revelation. Throughout the Scriptures there are unique places where God's presence dwells so as to be made accessible to God's people. The "house of God" is a phrase that refers to this place where we meet with God in a unique way.

a. Where and how do we encounter the presence of God today as New Covenant believers?

b. If God's Spirit is always with us as individuals, what makes gather for corporate worship special or important? Is there any reason to think that God's presence is manifested in a unique way when we gather to worship him and hear the word?

2. How aware of God's presence are you throughout your day?

a. When you think of God being with you, what difference does it make? What difference should it make?

b. If we are going to church to meet with God, how should we prepare ourselves for that time?

c. When you get ready to go to church, how cognizant are you that you are going to gather with God's people to encounter God's presence in a uniquely powerful way? What can make it hard for us to approach our time with a right heart and mindset?

d. The Preacher contrasts being ready to listen with offering the "sacrifice of fools" (i.e. fulfilling religious duties without understanding them or honoring their true meaning).

1) Do you go to church expectant and ready to listen to God's word? What does this look like?

2) How are you tempted to offer a "sacrifice of fools"?

3. One specific way that one might offer a sacrifice of fools is by speaking rashly to God. The Preacher explores the examples of vows. There are specific vows regarding certain things that we might give up and change in our lives. And then there is the general vow of committing ourselves to the Lord.

- a. What are some of the vows that you have made the Lord?
- b. Under what circumstances did you make these vows?
- c. Are you currently struggling with fulfilling any of these vows? If so, what is hindering you?
- d. How can your Community Group help support you in your pursuit of being faithful to your vows towards the Lord?

4. The passage ends with the admonishment that we should fear God.

- a. What does it mean to fear God and why is it so important?
- b. Why do we struggle so much to fear God?

**Prayer Prompt:**

**1 Sam 12:24 says, "Only fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you."**

**Spend some time praying**

- **Begin with recognizing the great things that God has done for you and thank him for.**
- **Pray that God would help us walk in a healthy respect, awe, and reverence before the Lord.**
- **Pray that we might approach corporate worship with an eager expectation to hear from the Lord, and not go through the motions in a meaningless way.**
- **Pray that we might faithfully lay down our idols and honor our vows to the Lord.**
- **Pray for one another with regard to the specific needs and struggles shared.**