Touching Lives

with James Merritt

SERMON SINGLES

Taking Care Of Business

Ecclesiastes 5:1-7

INTRODUCTION

So often in our society today, the concept of "truth" is up for debate. What is right? What is wrong? What or who determines right from wrong? These are questions that people are constantly trying to answer. But the truth is, if you try to make right and wrong a matter of human choice, human reason, or human decision, you are out on a limb that will break every time. One of two things is true. Either what is right is right in our eyes or what is right is right in God's eyes. With this in mind, I want to give you three reasons why only with God can you have morality. Only with God can you know what is right and what is wrong, and only with God can you tell the difference.

KEY POINTS

1. Be Discreet Entering The Presence Of God

Solomon very clearly says in today's key passage that you are to "draw near to listen." The word "listen" doesn't mean just to hear. The word literally means "to hear and act on what you hear."

As you enter into God's presence, your ears should be saying, "I am here today to listen to the truth God has for me." Your mind should be saying, "I am here today to learn the truth God has for me." Your heart should be saying, "I am going to walk out of here and live the truth God gave me today." That's the kind of posture we should all have when we are in the presence of God.

2. Be Deliberate In Offering Your Prayers To God

When you talk to God there is no such thing as an "off-handed" remark. Everything about God is serious. When you pray to the God of the universe, you had better think through your words very carefully. And while, yes, it's true that Jesus is our friend, that doesn't mean we talk to Him with any less respect than He deserves. We need to be mindful of how we're talking to the Lord.

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3. Be Determined In Keeping Your Promises To God

God keeps every promise He makes to you, and He wants you to keep every promise that you make to Him. You don't have to make any promises to God that He doesn't ask you for, but if you make one, you keep it.

On the one hand, Solomon says when you make a promise to God, don't procrastinate in keeping it, hoping things will change so you can get out of it or hoping God will forget you made the promise to begin with. It is better not to make a promise than to make a promise and not be able to keep it or to make a promise that you know you shouldn't keep.

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. How do you practically listen to God when you're in His presence?
2. In what ways do your prayers show your respect for your Heavenly Father?
3. What is a promise you've made to God? What are you doing to keep that promise?