

When Is Enough Enough?

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Ecclesiastes 5:10-20

The Folly of Riches

¹⁰ He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves abundance *with its* income. This too is ^[a]vanity. ¹¹ When good things increase, those who consume them increase. So what is the advantage to their owners except to ^[b]look on? ¹² The sleep of the working man is pleasant, whether he eats little or much; but the ^[c]full stomach of the rich man does not allow him to sleep.

¹³ There is a grievous evil *which* I have seen under the sun: riches being ^[d]hoarded by their owner to his hurt. ¹⁴ When those riches were lost through ^[e]a bad investment and he had fathered a son, then there was nothing ^[f]to support him. ¹⁵ As he had come naked from his mother's womb, so will he return as he came. He will take nothing from the fruit of his labor that he can carry in his hand. ¹⁶ This also is a grievous evil—exactly as a man ^[g]is born, thus will he ^[h]die. So what is the advantage to him who toils for the wind? ¹⁷ Throughout his life *he* also eats in darkness with great vexation, sickness and anger.

¹⁸ Here is what I have seen to be good and ^[i]fitting: to eat, to drink and ^[j]enjoy oneself in all one's labor in which he toils under the sun *during* the few ^[k]years of his life which God has given him; for this is his ^[l]reward. ¹⁹ Furthermore, as for every man to whom God has given riches and wealth, He has also empowered him to eat from them and to receive his ^[m]reward and rejoice in his labor; this is the gift of God. ²⁰ For he will not often ^[n]consider the ^[o]years of his life, because God keeps ^[p]him occupied with the gladness of his heart.

Footnotes:

- a. Ecclesiastes 5:10 Or *futility*
- b. Ecclesiastes 5:11 Lit *see with their eyes*
- c. Ecclesiastes 5:12 Lit *satiety*
- d. Ecclesiastes 5:13 Lit *guarded*
- e. Ecclesiastes 5:14 Lit *an evil task*
- f. Ecclesiastes 5:14 Lit *in his hand*
- g. Ecclesiastes 5:16 Lit *comes*
- h. Ecclesiastes 5:16 Lit *go*
- i. Ecclesiastes 5:18 Lit *beautiful*
- j. Ecclesiastes 5:18 Lit *see good*
- k. Ecclesiastes 5:18 Or *days*
- l. Ecclesiastes 5:18 Or *share*
- m. Ecclesiastes 5:19 Or *share*
- n. Ecclesiastes 5:20 Lit *remember*
- o. Ecclesiastes 5:20 Or *days*
- p. Ecclesiastes 5:20 So with Gr

Proverbs 30

The Words of Agur

30 The words of Agur the son of Jakeh, the ^[a]oracle.
The man declares to Ithiel, to Ithiel and Ucal:

² Surely I am more stupid than any man,
And I do not have the understanding of a man.

³ Neither have I learned wisdom,
Nor do I have the knowledge of the Holy One.

⁴ Who has ascended into heaven and descended?
Who has gathered the wind in His fists?
Who has wrapped the waters in ^[b]His garment?
Who has established all the ends of the earth?
What is His name or His son's name?
Surely you know!

⁵ Every word of God is tested;
He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.

⁶ Do not add to His words
Or He will reprove you, and you will be proved a liar.

⁷ Two things I asked of You,
Do not refuse me before I die:

⁸ Keep deception and ^[c]lies far from me,
Give me neither poverty nor riches;
Feed me with the food that is my portion,

⁹ That I not be full and deny *You* and say, "Who is the LORD?"
Or that I not be in want and steal,
And profane the name of my God.

¹⁰ Do not slander a slave to his master,
Or he will curse you and you will be found guilty.

¹¹ There is a ^[d]kind of *man* who curses his father
And does not bless his mother.

¹² There is a ^[e]kind who is pure in his own eyes,
Yet is not washed from his filthiness.

¹³ There is a ^[f]kind—oh how lofty are his eyes!
And his eyelids are raised *in arrogance*.

¹⁴ There is a ^[g]kind of *man* whose teeth are *like* swords
And his jaw teeth *like* knives,
To devour the afflicted from the earth
And the needy from among men.

¹⁵ The leech has two daughters,
"Give," "Give."
There are three things that will not be satisfied,
Four that will not say, "Enough":

¹⁶ ^[h]Sheol, and the barren womb,
Earth that is never satisfied with water,
And fire that never says, "Enough."

¹⁷ The eye that mocks a father
And ^[i]scorns a mother,
The ravens of the valley will pick it out,
And the young eagles will eat it.

¹⁸ There are three things which are too wonderful for me,

Four which I do not understand:

¹⁹ The way of an eagle in the sky,

The way of a serpent on a rock,

The way of a ship in the middle of the sea,

And the way of a man with a maid.

²⁰ This is the way of an adulterous woman:

She eats and wipes her mouth,

And says, "I have done no wrong."

²¹ Under three things the earth quakes,

And under four, it cannot bear up:

²² Under a slave when he becomes king,

And a fool when he is satisfied with food,

²³ Under an unloved woman when she gets a husband,

And a maidservant when she supplants her mistress.

²⁴ Four things are small on the earth,

But they are exceedingly wise:

²⁵ The ants are not a strong people,

But they prepare their food in the summer;

²⁶ The ^[j]shephanim are not mighty people,

Yet they make their houses in the rocks;

²⁷ The locusts have no king,

Yet all of them go out in ranks;

²⁸ The lizard you may grasp with the hands,

Yet it is in kings' palaces.

²⁹ There are three things which are stately in *their* march,

Even four which are stately when they walk:

³⁰ The lion *which* is mighty among beasts

And does not ^[k]retreat before any,

³¹ The ^[l]strutting rooster, the male goat also,

And a king *when his* army is with him.

³² If you have been foolish in exalting yourself

Or if you have plotted *evil*, *put your* hand on your mouth.

³³ For the ^[m]churning of milk produces butter,

And pressing the nose brings forth blood;

So the ^[n]churning of anger produces strife.

Footnotes:

- a. Proverbs 30:1 Or *burden*
- b. Proverbs 30:4 Lit *the*
- c. Proverbs 30:8 Lit *words of falsehood*
- d. Proverbs 30:11 Or *generation*
- e. Proverbs 30:12 Or *generation*
- f. Proverbs 30:13 Or *generation*
- g. Proverbs 30:14 Or *generation*
- h. Proverbs 30:16 I.e. The nether world
- i. Proverbs 30:17 Lit *despises to obey*

- j. Proverbs 30:26 Small, shy, furry animals (*Hyrax syriacus*) found in the peninsula of the Sinai, northern Israel, and the region round the Dead Sea; KJV *coney*, orig NASB *badgers*
- k. Proverbs 30:30 Lit *turn back*
- l. Proverbs 30:31 Lit *girt in the loins*
- m. Proverbs 30:33 Lit *pressing*
- n. Proverbs 30:33 Lit *pressing*

Ecclesiastes 3:11-22

God Set Eternity in the Heart of Man

¹¹ He has made everything ^[a]appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart, ^[b]yet so that man will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end.

¹² I know that there is nothing better for them than to rejoice and to do good in one's lifetime; ¹³ moreover, that every man who eats and drinks sees good in all his labor—it is the gift of God. ¹⁴ I know that everything God does will remain forever; there is nothing to add to it and there is nothing to take from it, for God has *so* worked that men should ^[c]fear Him. ¹⁵ That which is has been already and that which will be has already been, for God seeks what has passed by.

¹⁶ Furthermore, I have seen under the sun *that* in the place of justice there is wickedness and in the place of righteousness there is wickedness. ¹⁷ I said ^[d]to myself, "God will judge both the righteous man and the wicked man," for a time for every ^[e]matter and for every deed is there. ¹⁸ I said ^[f]to myself concerning the sons of men, "God has surely tested them in order for them to see that they are but beasts." ¹⁹ For the fate of the sons of men and the fate of beasts ^[g]is the same. As one dies so dies the other; indeed, they all have the same breath and there is no advantage for man over beast, for all is ^[h]vanity. ²⁰ All go to the same place. All came from the dust and all return to the dust. ²¹ Who knows that the breath of man ascends upward and the breath of the beast descends downward to the earth? ²² I have seen that nothing is better than that man should be happy in his activities, for that is his lot. For who will bring him to see what will occur after him?

Footnotes:

- a. Ecclesiastes 3:11 Lit *beautiful*
- b. Ecclesiastes 3:11 Or *without which man*
- c. Ecclesiastes 3:14 Or *be in awe before Him*
- d. Ecclesiastes 3:17 Lit *in my heart*
- e. Ecclesiastes 3:17 Or *delight*
- f. Ecclesiastes 3:18 Lit *in my heart*
- g. Ecclesiastes 3:19 Lit *and they have one fate*
- h. Ecclesiastes 3:19 Or *futility*

Luke 9:57-62

Exacting Discipleship

⁵⁷ As they were going along the road, someone said to Him, "I will follow You wherever You go." ⁵⁸ And Jesus said to him, "The foxes have holes and the birds of the ^[a]air *have* ^[b] nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." ⁵⁹ And He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father." ⁶⁰ But He said to him, "Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God."

⁶¹ Another also said, "I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say good-bye to those at home." ⁶² But Jesus said to him, "No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

Footnotes:

- a. Luke 9:58 Or *sky*
- b. Luke 9:58 Or *roosting-places*

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