

# CHAPTER 5:1-20

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## Lesson 7

### KEY VERSE(S)—

### OUTLINE—

- I. **OBSERVATION:** Vanity of Increase (5:8-17)
  - A. Vanity of Oppression (5:8-9)
  - B. Vanity of Abundance (5:10-12)
  - C. Vanity of Miserliness (5:13-17)
- II. **INSTRUCTION:** The Gift of God (5:18-20)

### KEY WORDS (Themes)—

### SUMMARY—

The Preacher next observes that when man finds no comfort or security in any of these other things, he must beware of a motivation that would turn to religion, thinking that religion is the solution to his problems. If he approaches religion looking for meaning—with the same attitude he approached wealth, fame, knowledge, etc.—then he will not find what he is looking for in ritualism and ceremony any more than he found it in those other things.

When we approach God, we must approach Him in a prudent manner rather than an evil one (5:1). We must come to hear God (5:1), come to pray (5:2-3), and come to pay our vow (5:4-7). Any other purpose for approaching God is vain! “Just as life in all its forms is vain without God, even so religion without God is vain also.” (Dee Bowman).

The oppressor oppresses in vain because there is one over him (5:8), and because he is served by the very people whom he oppresses (5:9).

Riches and abundance are futile because they cannot satisfy a man. Labor is its own reward whether we have little or much (5:10-12). The content man is richer than the rich man. Even more futile is the miser who hoards his riches to himself (5:13-17). Man’s heritage—his gift from God—is contentment. In this way He can enjoy God’s blessings, and thus be satisfied with joy, peace, and tranquility (5:18-20; cf. Psalm 126:5).

### QUESTIONS—

- 1) *Summarize this passage in one sentence.*
- 2) *Why is it important for us to be sincere and serious in our worship to God (5:1; cf. Matthew 6:7; 15:9; Isaiah 1:10-17)?*
- 3) *Why is the pursuit of religious ceremonialism a vain attempt to find fulfillment (5:1-7)? What does it actually become (5:1)? What is the proper motivation behind religion (5:7)?*
- 4) *Why can the man who loves wealth never be satisfied with wealth (5:10)?*

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5) *Why can't we find the security we seek in the wealth we accumulate in our own effort to provide that security (5:11-12)?*

6) *How can it be evil to hoard our wealth (5:13)?*

- *verse 13—*
- *verse 14—*
- *verse 15—*
- *verse 17a—*
- *verse 17b—*

*Describe the life of this miser.*

7) *What does it mean that God has “given him power to eat of it” (5:19)? How is that man different from the man whom God “does not give him power to eat of it” (6:2)?*

8) *How is a little bit with contentment, able to give man peace and tranquility(5:18-20)?*

### **ASSIGNMENT—**

Do some research on vows under the Old Testament law. Study the following passages and then write down some of your observations about the nature, purpose, and other qualities pertaining to vows.

- Leviticus 27:1-13—
- Numbers 6:1-21—
- Numbers 30:2-14—
- Deuteronomy 23:21-23—
- 1 Samuel 1:11—
- Psalm 50:14—
- Psalm 56:12-13—
- Psalm 61:5-8—
- Psalm 76:11—
- Psalm 116:12-14—
- Proverbs 20:25—
- Ecclesiastes 5:4-5—
- Acts 18:18—
- Acts 21:23—

### **READING SCHEDULE—**

Read this passage every day before the upcoming class (check the box after each day that you read the passage)

Sunday     Monday     Tuesday     Wednesday     Thursday     Friday     Saturday