

The Happiness Code

Week 9 – Vanities in Divine Service

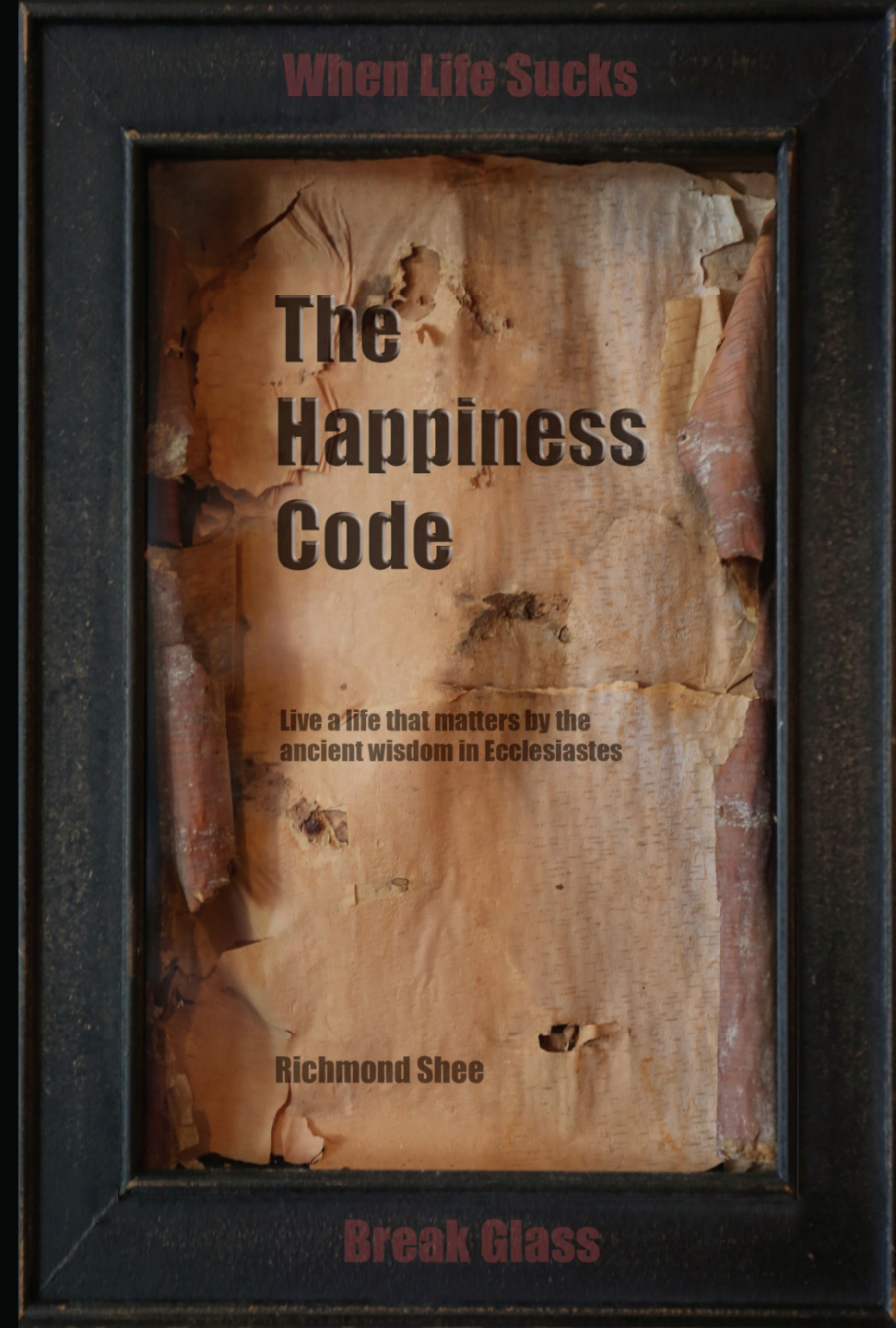
Ecclesiastes 5:1-9



Week #9: Level Set

There are four vanities in divine worship that are related to the hand-foot-and-mouth disease and it has nothing to do with the Cocksackievirus A16.

Millions of people are worshipping God in vain and some are causing Him to destroy their success.



Ecc 5:1 Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil.



#1 Vain religious exercise

- Fools have the spiritual hand-foot-and-mouth disease.
- Not mindful of walk (foot disease) – unrepentant of sins.

#2 Vain offering

- Give “the sacrifice of fools” (hand disease).
Proverbs 15:8 The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright is his delight.

Ecc 5:1 Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil.

What to do:

- Be mindful of your walk.
 - Foot => walk, way of life.
 - “Consider your ways” – Haggai 1:5, 7
 - Repent and ask for forgiveness.
Proverbs 28:13 He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.
- Be ready to hear what God has to say.
 - Nehemiah 8:1-12
 - James 1:19 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.
- Bring the right sacrifice.
 - Psalms 51:16 For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. (17) The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.



Ecc 5:2 Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few.

#3 Vain prayer



- Fools pray vain prayers (mouth disease).
- Rash with the mouth.
 - Not searching the heart, but are impulsive with their mouths in uttering wordy and vain prayers.
 - **Matthew 15:8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.**
- Hasty heart (heart disease too!)
 - Nothing good can come out of an evil and deceitful heart.
 - Matthew 12:34-37.
- Inconsiderate of their position relative to God.
 - No one would yap and ramble before an earthly king, what more before the King of kings.

Ecc 5:3 For a dream cometh through the multitude of business; and a fool's voice is known by multitude of words.



- Praying in repetition.
 - It's a prayer, not a chant!
 - **Matthew 6:7 But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.**
- Rapid-fire incoherent and gibberish words to God.
 - Spray instead of pray.
- Fools' prayers are wordy and vain as a dream.

Prayer...

- Prayers are open channels of communication to God.
- Can boldly approach the throne.
 - Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.
- Can talk with God as between friends, but should not be hasty in saying anything to Him.
- Our prayers need to be the product of the meditation of our hearts that is filtered through our thoughtful minds before leaving our mouths.
- Get to the point!
 - Matthew 6:8 Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.



Ecc 5:4 When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed.

#4 Vain vow

- A vow is a bond upon the soul.

Numbers 30:2 If a man vow a vow unto the LORD, or swear an oath to bind his soul with a bond; he shall not break his word, he shall do according to all that proceedeth out of his mouth.

VOW

- Vows are voluntary self-imposed sacrifices and there is no requirement to vow, but once made, it becomes a bond.
 - “Pay”— 3X in this verses 4-5.
- God does not take lightly to mocking from fools.
 - “God, if you will do this for me, I will...”

Ecc 5:5 Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay.

VOW

- Be very careful when making promises stemming from a sudden heat or passion.
- Do not deal with God; do not offer to do something in return for something.
- Even a fish wouldn't get into trouble if it kept its mouth shut.
- Proverbs 21:23 Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.
- Proverbs 12:13 The wicked is snared by the transgression of his lips: but the just shall come out of trouble.

Ecc 5:6 Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands?



- A mouth-and-heart disease will always get you in trouble.
 - Sinful vows or vows with low chances of getting fulfilled through the frailty of the flesh.
 - Vows of celibacy without the gift of being single.
 - An alcoholic vowing to never drink again.
 - Jephthah's sad story in Judges 11:30-40.
- The person who vows has no excuse to not perform it.
 - Any attempt to nullify a vow as if it was made in error is adding sin upon sin.
- It is highly advisable to not shoot one's mouth off before God and risk His anger and judgment.

(Note: "The angel" is in reference to the Lord Jesus Christ, who sometimes is referred to as "the angel of the LORD," or "the angel of God.")

Ecc 5:7 For in the multitude of dreams and many words there are also divers vanities: but fear thou God.

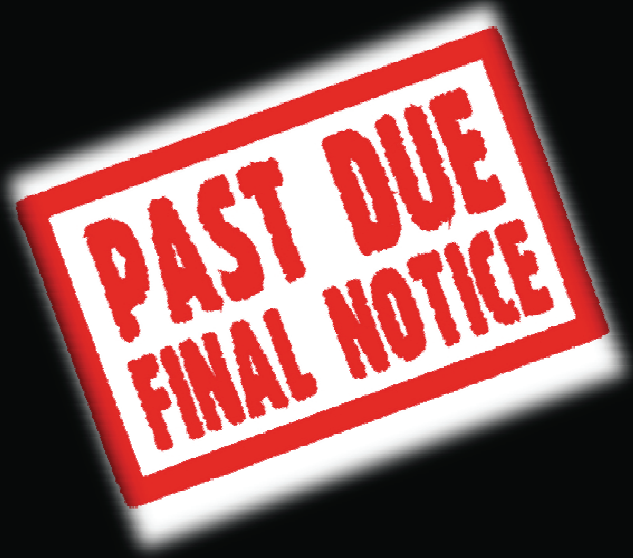
VOW

- As dreams are vanities, so are excuses which are made for the non-performance of vows.
- All these problems could be avoided if people fear God more and talk less.

Ecc 5:8 If thou seest the oppression of the poor, and violent perverting of judgment and justice in a province, marvel not at the matter: for he that is higher than the highest regardeth; and there be higher than they. (9) Moreover the profit of the earth is for all: the king himself is served by the field.



- How do you react to the plundering of the poor?
 - Run off at the mouth wondering how can God allow such awful things to happen to good people and not avenge them?
- God has checks and balances in place:
 - The plundering of the poor is committed by authority at the province level.
 - God has put in place a hierarchy of authorities.
 - Even the king is sustained by the field, so there is a limit to the oppression of the poor who own and work the fields.
- God cares for the poor.
 - Proverbs 22:22 Rob not the poor, because he is poor: neither oppress the afflicted in the gate: (23) For the LORD will plead their cause, and spoil the soul of those that spoiled them.



- Do you have the hand-foot-mouth-and-heart disease?
- Did you promise God anything?
Do you have an outstanding and delinquent vow to pay?
- How about that marriage vow that you made before God?
Are you living up to it?
- How about things that you didn't promise, but should be doing?

You have been illuminated to these truths:

- Avoid vain religious exercise – foot disease.
 - Be mindful of our walk. Consider our ways.
- Avoid vain offerings – hand disease.
 - Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. (2) And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.
- Avoid vain prayers – mouth disease.
 - Our prayers need to be the product of the meditation of our hearts that is filtered through our thoughtful minds before leaving our mouths.
- Avoid vain vows .
 - Vows are voluntary self-imposed sacrifices and there is no requirement to vow, but once made, it becomes a bond.
 - It is better not to vow to God, than to vow and not pay.
- Please submit your questions and feedback to TheHappinessCode@yahoo.com