


Ecclesiastes 5


Winter 2023

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What is one of your favorite gifts that you ever received?

What is it about this gift that makes it your favorite?



What are some examples of different kinds of gifts that God gives to people?



What are some specific gifts that God has given to you?

Ecclesiastes 5:1-7 (p555)

¹ Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. To draw near to listen is better than to offer the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they are doing evil.

² Be not rash with your mouth, nor let your heart be hasty to utter a word before God, for God is in heaven and you are on earth. Therefore let your words be few.

³ For a dream comes with much business, and a fool's voice with many words.

Ecclesiastes 5:1-7

⁴ When you vow a vow to God, do not delay paying it, for he has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you vow.

⁵ It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay.

⁶ Let not your mouth lead you into sin, and do not say before the messenger that it was a mistake. Why should God be angry at your voice and destroy the work of your hands?

⁷ For when dreams increase and words grow many, there is vanity; but God is the one you must fear.

ESV →but God is the one you must fear.
NIV →Therefore stand in awe of God.

1 Samuel 15:22 (p238)
4 And Samuel said,
“Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices,
as in obeying the voice of the LORD?
Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice,
and to listen than the fat of rams.

John 1:14 (p886)
And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Dt. 23:21-23 (p165)

²¹ “If you make a vow to the Lord your God, you shall not delay fulfilling it, for the Lord your God will surely require it of you, and you will be guilty of sin.

²² But if you refrain from vowing, you will not be guilty of sin.

²³ You shall be careful to do what has passed your lips, for you have voluntarily vowed to the Lord your God what you have promised with your mouth.

Judges 11:34-40 (p212)

³⁴ Then Jephthah came to his home at Mizpah. And behold, his daughter came out to meet him with tambourines and with dances. She was his only child; besides her he had neither son nor daughter.

³⁵ And as soon as he saw her, he tore his clothes and said, “Alas, my daughter! You have brought me very low, and you have become the cause of great trouble to me. For I have opened my mouth to the Lord, and I cannot take back my vow.”

Ecc. 5:8-9

⁸ If you see in a province the oppression of the poor and the violation of justice and righteousness, do not be amazed at the matter, for the high official is watched by a higher, and there are yet higher ones over them.

⁹ But this is gain for a land in every way: a king committed to cultivated fields.

Ecc. 5:10-12

¹⁰ He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity.

¹¹ When goods increase, they increase who eat them, and what advantage has their owner but to see them with his eyes?

¹² Sweet is the sleep of a laborer, whether he eats little or much, but the full stomach of the rich will not let him sleep.

Ecc. 5:13-17

¹³ There is a grievous evil that I have seen under the sun: riches were kept by their owner to his hurt,

¹⁴ and those riches were lost in a bad venture. And he is father of a son, but he has nothing in his hand. 1

¹⁵ As he came from his mother's womb he shall go again, naked as he came, and shall take nothing for his toil that he may carry away in his hand.

Ecc. 5:13-17

¹⁶ This also is a grievous evil: just as he came, so shall he go, and what gain is there to him who toils for the wind?

¹⁷ Moreover, all his days he eats in darkness in much vexation and sickness and anger.

Ps. 12:5 (p452)

“Because the poor are plundered, because the needy groan, I will now arise,” says the Lord; “I will place him in the safety for which he longs.”

1 Tim 6:9-10 (p993)

⁹But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.

¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

- Addiction / dissatisfaction (5:10)
- Attracts the greedy (5:11)
- Becomes a status symbol/trophy (5:11)
- Promotes worry (5:12)
- Causes lack of sleep (5:12)
- Leads to hoarding / stockpiling (5:13)
- It is easily lost (5:14)
- Cannot follow us after death (5:15-17)

Mt 19:16-26 (p824)

¹⁶ And behold, a man came up to him, saying, "Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?" ¹⁷ And he said to him, "Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments." ¹⁸ He said to him, "Which ones?" And Jesus said, "You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, ¹⁹ Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Mt 19:16-26

¹⁹ Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ²⁰ The young man said to him, "All these I have kept. What do I still lack?" ²¹ Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." ²² When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

Mt 19:16-26

²³ And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven. ²⁴ Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." ²⁵ When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" ²⁶ But Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Ecc. 5:18-20

¹⁸Behold, what I have seen to be good and fitting is to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of his life that God has given him, for this is his lot. ¹⁹ Everyone also to whom God has given wealth and possessions and power to enjoy them, and to accept his lot and rejoice in his toil—this is the gift of God. ²⁰ For he will not much remember the days of his life because God keeps him occupied with joy in his heart.

Heb. 13:5

Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

¹⁹ Everyone also to whom God has given wealth and possessions and power to enjoy them, and to accept his lot and rejoice in his toil—this is the gift of God.

²⁰ For he will not much remember the days of his life because God keeps him occupied with joy in his heart.

The one who accepts his lot and rejoices in his toil has joy in his heart.
