

Hello. /We will begin the 11<sup>th</sup> lecture on the book of Ecclesiastes. /Our message today is from Ecclesiastes 10. /The title of chapter 10 is “The Lazy Person.”

/First, the wise man and the fool. /Verses 1-3. /Second, the need to be calm with a foolish ruler. /Verses 4-7. /Third, those who harm others will themselves be harmed. /Verses 8-9.

/Fourth, be wise in your words and actions. /Verses 10-15. /Fifth, the land of disaster and the land of blessing. /Verses 16-17. /Sixth, the lazy person’s actions and the result of his actions. /Verses 18-19. /Seventh, do not curse those with power. /Verse 20.

/First, the wise man and the fool. /Verses 1-3.

/Verse 1. Let us read. /Dead flies make the perfumer's ointment give off a stench; so a little folly outweighs wisdom and honor.

/The verse compares the wise man to the fool. /Dead flies make the perfumer’s ointment smell bad. /If one small fly falls into the ointment, the entire thing smells and rots. /Similarly, a little foolishness causes much damage.

/That is why 1 Corinthians 5:6 says, / “Your boasting is not good. /Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?” /Even a little leaven decays very quickly. /A little folly causes a stench, and it outweighs wisdom and honor.

/Do you know what students at school first learn from their friends? /They learn how to curse. /People are slow to learn when we teach them good things, but they learn curse words very quickly. /One bad word is damaging to other people and has a negative influence.

/Therefore a little foolishness causes a bad smell. /We must not tolerate the small amount of foolishness. /The foolish person tolerates small sins. /This person **is made** shameful, and he gives off a stench.

/For this reason, we must not tolerate the smallest sins. /The Bible tells us to rid ourselves of every form of evil. /We must not keep any form of evil in our hearts, but we must rid ourselves of even the smallest evil.

/1 Thessalonians 5:22 says, / “Abstain from every form of evil.” /We must throw away every form of evil. /If we keep sin, it will cause the entire body to decay.

/In this way, one small fly that falls into the perfumer’s ointment causes the entire thing to go bad. /Thus we must fear even the smallest sin, and we must not fall into that sin. /Small sin eventually gives off a bad smell, and the sin defeats wisdom and honor.

/A little leaven leavens the whole lump. /2 Corinthians 5:6,7 /We must catch the small foxes that ruin the vineyard. /We must not allow sin, not even the smallest ones.

/Song of Solomon 2:15 says, / “Catch the foxes for us, /the little foxes that spoil the vineyards, /for our vineyards are in blossom.” /If the vines of the vineyard lose their flowers, they do not bear fruit.

/Here we have a cup of water that has a good smell to it. /A fly fell into this cup of water. /Then do we drink this water? No, we throw the water away.

/The fool allows small sins. /However, the wise person fears the smallest sins. /The wise person fears God and repents after committing a small sin.

/Verse 2. /A wise man's heart inclines him to the right, but a fool's heart to the left.

/The wise man's heart inclines him to the right. /The fool's heart inclines to the left. /When it says “inclines to the right,” it means there is power. /It also speaks of the importance of the right hand. /It means there is strength in the right hand. /Additionally, it means being active.

/Therefore the wise man actively does the work of God. /The wise man works hard to raid the kingdom of God. /The wise man works to obtain the things of the soul. /He is able to claim heaven's inheritance.

/Matthew 25:14-30 is about The Parable of Talents. /A master entrusted his talents to his servants. /To one servant, he gave five talents, to another, two talents, and to yet another, one talent.

/The ones who received five talents and two talents came before the master and reported that they doubled the number of talents. /The master complimented them. /However, the person who received one talent came to the master with one talent.

/The one who received one talent was evil and lazy, and he disobeyed his master. /Because of this, he was rebuked.

/When we are actively doing our work, we will certainly gain. /Because the fool did things half-heartedly, he did not gain anything.

/The person whose heart inclines him to the right actively goes forward in wisdom. /However, the fool is the half-hearted person who leans to the left. /At all times, the fool does things half-heartedly. /He says, “Ah, I can't.” /He says, “I cannot do this.” /Proverbs 22:13.

/When we act in faith, God allows all things to happen. /Matthew 11:12 says that heaven is taken by the violent by force. /We must not become half-hearted people.

/Verse 3. /Even when the fool walks on the road, he lacks sense, and he says to everyone that he is a fool.

/The Bible again compares the fool to the wise man. /Walking on the road, the fool reveals to everyone that he is a fool. /Even if the fool wants to hide his foolishness, he cannot hide it.

/For example, the fool's words are flawed. /Also, when he walks the road, the fool lacks wisdom, so he boasts to people about his foolishness. /Have we been boasting of our foolishness as well?

/Boasting in foolishness is boasting in ourselves. /We must lift up God and God alone. /Boasting in ourselves is like boasting in our foolishness. /1 Corinthians 15:9 says, / "For I am the least of the apostles, /unworthy to be called an apostle, /because I persecuted the church of God."

/The Apostle Paul boasted in his weakness. /1 Corinthians 15:10 says, / "But by the grace of God I am what I am, /and his grace toward me was not in vain. /On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, /though it was not I, /but the grace of God that is with me."

/Paul did not boast in himself. /He did not elevate himself. /He only lifted up God. /Therefore, whether we eat or drink or in whatever we do we must boast in God alone. /The wise person boasts in this way.

/The wise man does not reveal his flaws. /He only says what is appropriate. /Proverbs 25:11 says / "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver." /The fool talks about himself and boasts in himself.

/We must only say words that give glory to God. /We must not be faulty in our words. /James 3:2

/The wise person only says words that direct the glory to God. /The fool talks a lot, but he becomes the fool whose words are faulty.

/Second, the need to be calm with a foolish ruler. /Verses 4-7. /Verse 4. /If the anger of the ruler rises against you, do not leave your place, for calmness will lay great offenses to rest.

/The verse speaks about the foolish king. /It teaches us how we can avoid being at a loss in the presence of a ruler. /We must not allow the one in power to enrage us.

/We must make sure we are not harmed. /In order to do this, we must not leave our place, but we must be calm. /Although we may be angry about someone in power or someone above us, we must not be rebellious, but we must be calm and leave everything to God who judges justly. /Then, we will avoid damage and we will prosper.

/Proverbs 15:1 says, / "A soft answer turns away wrath, /but a harsh word stirs up anger." /When we rebel against a ruler or superior, we take damage.

/1 Peter 2:18 says, / “Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, /not only to the good and gentle /but also to the unjust.” /Therefore when we encounter the foolish king, we must be gentle in his presence.

/Beginning with verse 6, the foolish king’s actions are recorded. /What happens to the foolish ruler?

Verse 6. /folly is set in many high places, and the rich sit in a low place.

/The fool should sit in the low place, but it is the rich who sits in the low place. /The verse is referring to those without skill who are sitting at a high place. /Slaves who have no skill gain power and ride around on horses as they are seated at a high place.

/Here, the foolish king is a king without skill. /However, he is in a high position. /The qualified and skilled should be sitting in the high place, but the unqualified person sits here.

/When an unqualified king rules a nation, nothing operates properly. /This is evidence that God is punishing the nation. /Isaiah 3:4 says, / “And I will make boys their princes, / and infants shall rule over them.”

/During these times, the wise believer must be gentle as he lives the life of faith. /When we rebel or go against one in power, our faith will see damage. /Here, the Bible teaches the wise believer the secret to not suffering loss when encountering a foolish king.

/Verse 7. /I have seen slaves on horses, and princes walking on the ground like slaves.

/Slaves ride horses while princes walk on the ground like slaves. /Fools gain authority and ride horses while skilled people walk on the ground.

/Third, those who harm others will themselves be harmed. /Verses 8-9.

/Verse 8. /He who digs a pit will fall into it, and a serpent will bite him who breaks through a wall.

/The verse says the one who digs a pit will fall into it. /Someone who digs a pit to kill another person will fall into his own pit. /Proverbs 26:27 says, / “Whoever digs a pit will fall into it, /and a stone will come back on him who starts it rolling.”

/If I dig a pit, I will fall into it. /If I roll a stone, it will come back and hit me. /Therefore we must not dig pits. /Psalm 7:14. /We must not dig holes to hurt others.

/In Daniel 6, /there are high officials that are jealous of Daniel. /Daniel was faithful in everything he did. /However, those who envied Daniel, requested to the king that he impose a law that forbids anyone from petitioning to anyone but the king.

/The king agreed to it. /But Daniel continued praying to God. /Daniel's enemies charged Daniel for disobeying the law. /Daniel was thrown into the lion's den. /By the power of God, Daniel came out alive.

/Instead, those who accused Daniel were thrown into the lion's den and eaten by the lions. /The officials who tried to kill Daniel had dug a pit. /In this way, those who dig pits fall into their own pits.

/The verse also says, "A serpent will bite him who breaks through a wall." /In Korea in the past, snakes used to live under the rooftops. /It is said that in Israel, snakes also live in walls.

/When people break down walls, they are sometimes bitten by serpents. /Those who wrong others will be wronged themselves.

/Verse 9. /He who quarries stones is hurt by them, and he who splits logs is endangered by them.

/The one who quarries stones is hurt by them. /The one who splits logs is endangered by them. /The one who digs a pit brings harm to himself. /Sometimes, when unearthing stones, the stones may crack as they are dug up.

/When cutting a tree, the tree may fall towards me. /If we harm others, it will come back and harm us. /Therefore we must not dig a pit. /We also must not handle situations with the sword.

/We must always do good. /Good always wins. /God is good, and he stands by those who are good. /Therefore we must have good hearts. /Good defeats everything.

/Proverbs 24:17 says, / "Do not rejoice /when your enemy falls, /and let not your heart be glad when he stumbles, /lest the LORD see it /and be displeased, /and turn away his anger from him."

/When others are facing difficult times, we must help them. /Such is the way of an upright person of faith. /We must not dig pits to kill others. /We must not plot to cause others to stumble.

/Fourth, be wise in your words and actions. /Verses 10-15.

/Verse 10. /If the iron is blunt, and one does not sharpen the edge, he must use more strength, but wisdom helps one to succeed.

/We must be wise in our words and actions. /By working hard and doing research, we can easily and effectively do our work. /Also, our words and actions should be said and done with wisdom. /In this verse, the Bible makes this comparison.

/The verse reads, “If the iron is blunt, and one does not sharpen the edge, he must use more strength.” /If a worker does not sharpen his sickle in his laziness, will he be able to reap the harvest with a rusty sickle? /When the man prepares for the harvest by sharpening his tools, he can efficiently do his work.

/This is an example of acting in wisdom. /Before starting anything, we must first be well-prepared. /Only then will we do a good job.

/Thus we believers must be well prepared when doing the Lord’s work. /If we are ready, then the job will be done smoothly, and we will become wise people. /We must especially prepare ourselves with prayer before doing the Lord’s work, receiving his wisdom and power in prayer.

/This ends the 11<sup>th</sup> lecture on the book of Ecclesiastes. /Thank you.