

ECCLESIASTES

Eccl. 10:4-7



Eccl. 10:4 If the spirit of the ruler rise up against thee, leave not thy place; for yielding pacifieth great offences.

5 There is an evil *which* I have seen **under the sun**, as an error *which* proceedeth from the ruler:

6 Folly is set in great dignity, and the rich sit in low place.

7 I have seen servants upon horses, and princes walking as servants upon the earth.

This evening, we continue on a wonderful, spiritual journey through the Book of Ecclesiastes, known also as “The Preacher.”

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A. The Preacher, 1:1

B. The Problem, 1:2-3

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(2) Over All That Is Right, 10:4-7

(a) When Power is Mishandled, 10:4-5

i. The Proper Reaction, 10:4

Eccl. 10:4 If the spirit of the ruler rise up against thee, leave not thy place; for **yielding pacifieth great offences.**

- Marital disagreements may be resolved quicker when one “holds their peace.”

Ex. 14:14 The LORD shall fight for you, and **ye shall hold your peace.**

Prov. 11:12 He that is void of wisdom despiseth his neighbour: but **a man of understanding holdeth his peace.**

Prov. 17:28 **Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise:** *and* he that shutteth his lips *is esteemed* a man of understanding.

- The Example of Shimei:

1 Kings 2:36 And the king sent and called for Shimei, and said unto him, Build thee an house in Jerusalem, and dwell there, and go not forth thence any whither.

37 For it shall be, *that* **on the day thou goest out, and passest over the brook Kidron, thou shalt know for certain that thou shalt surely die: thy blood shall be upon thine own head.**

38 And Shimei said unto the king, The saying *is* good: as my lord the king hath said, so will thy servant do. And Shimei dwelt in Jerusalem many days.

39 And it came to pass at the end of three years, that two of the servants of Shimei ran away unto Achish son of Maachah king of Gath. And they told Shimei, saying, Behold, thy servants *be* in Gath.

40 And Shimei arose, and saddled his ass, and went to Gath to Achish to seek his servants: and Shimei went, and brought his servants from Gath.

41 And it was told Solomon that Shimei had gone from Jerusalem to Gath, and was come again.

42 And the king sent and called for Shimei, and said unto him, **Did I not make thee to swear by the LORD, and protested unto thee, saying, Know for a certain, on the day thou goest out, and walkest abroad any whither, that thou shalt surely die? and thou saidst unto me, The word *that* I have heard *is* good.**

43 Why then hast thou not kept the oath of the LORD, and the commandment that I have charged thee with?

44 The king said moreover to Shimei, **Thou knowest all the wickedness which thine heart is privy to, that thou didst to David my father: therefore the LORD shall return thy wickedness upon thine own head;**

ii. The Probable Reason, 10:5

Eccl. 10:5 There is an evil *which* I have seen **under the sun**, as an error *which* proceedeth from the ruler:

Job 32:9 **Great men are not *always* wise**: neither do the aged understand judgment.

(b) When Pride is Misplaced, 10:6-7

i. The Dignified Fool, 10:6

Eccl. 10:6 **Folly is set in great dignity**, and the rich sit in low place.

“Folly is set in great dignity”

- Worldly award presentations; ESPN Espy’s, Oscars, Emmy’s, etc.
- Choosing a new pope;
- Communist and Socialistic leaders – Stalin, Castro, Che Guevara

1 Sam. 14:44 And Saul answered, God do so and more also: for thou shalt surely die, Jonathan.

(Dan. 5:1-5)

“...the rich sit in low place.”

Luke 14:8 **When thou art bidden of any *man* to a wedding, sit not down in the highest room;** lest a more honourable man than thou be bidden of him;

9 And he that bade thee and him come and say to thee, Give this man place; and thou begin with shame to take the lowest room.

10 But **when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest room; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, Friend, go up higher:** then shalt thou have worship in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee.

- Perhaps the worst example of Eccl. 10:6a is Solomon.

ii. The Dandified Flunky, 10:7

Eccl. 10:7 I have seen servants upon horses, and princes walking as servants upon the earth.

- Inferior men are infuriated when better men refuse to acknowledge them as greater:
 - Ahab when refused by Naboth to sell the vineyard;
 - Absalom and David;
 - Haman with Mordecai;
 - Nebuchadnezzar with the three Hebrews;
 - Pilate with no reply from the Lord Jesus Christ;
 - “Scholars” verses Bible believers.

Conclusion

Jas. 2:1 **My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons.**

2 For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment;

3 And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool:

4 **Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?**

5 **Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?**