



Read Ecclesiastes 5:1-7

Introduction (Verse 1)- We are challenged to be CAREFUL when going before God (prayer)

2 Types of People Mentioned:

1. The “obedient” drawing near to God (Abel)
2. The “fool” who offers pointless sacrifice (Cain)

Talk about it: Look back at Cain and Abel. Why was God displeased with Cain and not Abel?

## I. Watch Our Words (verse 2)

A. Don't be QUICK to speak to God

Question: What do you think it means by being “hasty” to speak to God?

Question: The HCSB uses the term “impulsive” as well. What does that mean?

1. We don't think before we pray for things
2. We are quick to say what we want instead of following God first

Question: Do you think we are showing God our trust and faith in Him when we pray hastily?  
-We often make it about our own desires (Numbers 11:4-6, 18-20, 33-34)

B. Our words should be “FEW” (carefully thought out)

Ask yourself these questions:

1. Have I sought after God's desire's first?
2. Do I find myself doing what I want and then expecting God to bless it?
3. Am I living a life that God would bless?
4. Do I only pray to God when I want something?
5. How much time do I spend listening to God?

-be careful of generic, heartless, repetitious prayers

## II. Keep Your Promises (verses 4-7)

A. If you make a commitment to God...

1. KEEP it (He calls you a “fool” if you don't)
2. DO it immediately

B. God would rather us not make any commitments at all than to BREAK one

Think about it: How often do we make commitments at youth events, but never follow through?

# Small group discussion

So what does God want to hear from me?

**\*Read the model prayer that Jesus gave us in Matthew 6:9-13**

**1. ADORATION**

*"Our Father in heaven, Your name be honored as holy."*

-express your love for God

**2. SUBMISSION**

*"Your kingdom come. Your will be done. On earth as it is in Heaven."*

-be in agreement to God's greatness and show our humility

**3. PETITION**

*"Give us today our daily bread."*

-give your prayer request

**4. REPENTANCE**

*"And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."*

-ask for forgiveness

**5. PROTECTION**

*"And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."*

-ask God to keep evil and Satan from you

-ask him to help keep you pure

**6. PRAISE to God**

*"For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."*

-end praising God for what He has done and will do

Ask Yourself...How could my prayers be improved by conforming them more nearly to Jesus' model?

Take time to think about 2 things. Write down what God is challenging you to do.

1. Have I been giving quality prayers to God? In what specific ways do I need to work on my prayer life?

2. Are there commitments I have made to God and not kept? What are they and what do I need to do?

Spend quality time in prayer with God.

*"...God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few.."* Ecclesiastes 3:14