

Is This All There is To Life: *Superficial*

May 21st, 2023

INTRODUCTION

- We try to bend the universe to our will & way = *futile*
- We try to bend God to our will & way = *futile*

CONTENT – *Ecclesiastes 5:1-7*

Watch your step (in your worship)!

a) Proper posture – *listening*

- Hearing
- Heeding (obedience)

b) Improper posture – *sacrifice of fools*

- Thoughtless activity (*going through the motions*)
- Rash promises

Reality check – *God is in heaven and you are...um...not.*

APPLICATION

Good news – *God is approachable*

Not-so-good-news – *God does not come to us on our terms*

- a) Improper worship – we act, God responds
- b) Proper worship – God acts, we respond

For Sunday mornings...

- What is one thing that stood out from the teaching this past week? What is one question this raised?
- Where and how do you sense Jesus nudging you to respond? What might a faithful, obedient step towards this look like?

For weekly bible reading...

Day:

Scripture

Thoughts

Application

Andrew, my son,

Response

Dear Holy Spirit,

Discussion Guide

As always, these questions are intended as tools to help get a good conversation going. Please don't feel obligated to rigidly go through each one. Park on ones that stir up good conversation. Feel free to add your own or wander where the conversation takes you. As always, make sure to wrap up with application (this is after all, the main point)—how is this encouraging, strengthening, or challenging you to follow Jesus more faithfully and fully. This is always most important.

Blessings...Andrew

1. In your own words, what does *going through the motions* look like? What are some times in or ways of life where you've done this?
2. Read Ecclesiastes 5:1-3. What stands out in these verses. What questions do they raise? *Watch your step*, is hardly the kind of seeker-sensitive message you might see displayed in a church foyer. Is there a healthy corrective we might consider here? If not, why? If so, what might this look like (how or where have you seen this done well)?
3. What are some of the ways we *go through the motions* spiritually? This is often unintentional, what are some reasons why we fall into this cycle?
4. There seems to be a caution against being too quick with our words before God. Why might this be?
5. Read Ecclesiastes 5:4-7. What stands out in these verses. What questions do they raise? What are some ways we make rash promises to God? Have you ever done this? What did this look like?
6. How do we keep the reality check—*God is in heaven and you are...um...not*—in view? What are some ways we could or need to remind ourselves of this?
7. Most Christians are over-knowledged and under-obedient. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why?
8. What are some of the reasons we so often struggle to genuinely respond to or obey the voice of God?
9. In order to respond to God's voice, we first need to hear it. What are some ways you've found helpful to hear the voice of God? What's been rewarding or difficult in the journey? What one tip you'd offer others to consider?
10. In the past 3 months, what is one area of your life where Jesus has been asking you to trust, follow, or obey him?
11. What is one thing that stood out from the teaching this past week? What is one question this raised?
12. Where and how do you sense Jesus nudging you to respond? What might a faithful, obedient step towards this look like?