

## Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

*Part 209 – Dead Flies Through Don't Curse The King (Ecclesiastes 10:1-20)*

1. What does dead flies and a little folly have in common?

They cause something good to STINK: *“Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour: so doth a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom and honour” (Ecclesiastes 10:1).*

- Ointment of the apothecary [a compound to make spice] is supposed to be a perfume (**Exodus 30:34-35**). Dead flies corrupt that smell.
- A little folly RIGHTFULLY damages a good reputation (**Ezekiel 18:24** and **II Peter 2:20-22**).

2. Does the fool have his heart in the same place as a wise individual?

No: *“A wise man's heart is at his right hand; but a fool's heart at his left” (Ecclesiastes 10:2).*

- **Proverbs 10:8, Proverbs 11:29, and Ecclesiastes 7:4.**

3. Does the actions of a fool expose him for what he is?

Yes: *“Yea also, when he that is a fool walketh by the way, his wisdom faileth him, and he saith to every one that he is a fool” (Ecclesiastes 10:3).*

- **Proverbs 13:16, Proverbs 17:27-28, and Ecclesiastes 5:3.**

4. If the anger of the ruler rises against you, should you get out of line or yield to that ruler?

Stay in your place, yield to him: *“If the spirit of the ruler rise up against thee, leave not thy place; for yielding pacifieth great offences” (Ecclesiastes 10:4).*

- **Proverbs 15:1, Proverbs 16:14, and Proverbs 25:15.**
- There is an exception to this rule (**Acts 5:17-29**).

5. Are the logical people always in the place of authority?

No: *“(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” (Ecclesiastes 10:5-7).*

- **Proverbs 19:10 and Proverbs 30:21-23.**

6. What can happen to people who dig pits or move stones?

Injury: *“(8) He that diggeth a pit shall fall into it; and whoso breaketh an hedge, a serpent shall bite him. (9) Whoso removeth stones shall be hurt therewith; and he that cleaveth wood shall be endangered thereby” (Ecclesiastes 10:8-9).*

- This is often applied to those who do these works to set traps wherein they reap what they sow (**Psalm 7:15-16**, **Psalm 9:15-16**, and **Proverbs 26:27**).

7. Is wisdom profitable even when it comes to using tools?

Yes: *“If the iron be blunt, and he do not whet the edge, then must he put to more strength: but wisdom is profitable to direct” (Ecclesiastes 10:10).*

- Better to be wise and sharpen the tool than to use strength with a blunt object (**Proverbs 24:5**, **Ecclesiastes 7:19**, and **Ecclesiastes 9:16**).

8. What do a serpent and a babbler have in common?

They bite: *“Surely the serpent will bite without enchantment; and a babbler is no better” (Ecclesiastes 10:11).*

- **Psalm 52:2**, **Proverbs 18:7**, **Proverbs 18:21**, and **James 3:5-6**.

9. Should a fool talk?

No, he doesn't have the knowledge to speak, harms himself, and harms others: *“(12) The words of a wise man's mouth are gracious; but the lips of a fool will swallow up himself. (13) The beginning of the words of his mouth is foolishness: and the end of his talk is mischievous madness. (14) A fool also is full of words: a man cannot tell what shall be; and what shall be after him, who can tell him” (Ecclesiastes 10:12-14)?*

- Words of the wise (**Psalm 37:30**, **Proverbs 10:21**, **Proverbs 12:18**, and **Ephesians 4:29**).
- The fool (**Proverbs 10:19** and **Proverbs 15:2**).

10. Why does the labor of a foolish person weary him?

He doesn't know the way to the city: *“The labour of the foolish wearieth every one of them, because he knoweth not how to go to the city” (Ecclesiastes 10:15).*

- This point is illustrated in the creators of idols (**Isaiah 44:12-17**).

11. How much does a king have an impact on a nation?

Enough to cause blessings or get woes: *“(16) Woe to thee, O land, when thy king is a child, and thy princes eat in the morning! (17) Blessed art thou, O land, when thy king is the son of nobles, and thy princes eat in due season, for strength, and not for drunkenness” (Ecclesiastes 10:16-17)!*

- Young and/or evil not good (**II Chronicles 13:7, Isaiah 3:12, and Isaiah 9:16**).
- Not for drunkenness (**Proverbs 31:4-5**).
- *“When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn” (Proverbs 29:2).*

12. Is it wise to trust a lazy person to upkeep a property?

No: *“By much slothfulness the building decayeth; and through idleness of the hands the house droppeth through” (Ecclesiastes 10:18).*

- **Proverbs 21:25 and Proverbs 24:30-31.**

13. Can money send a powerful message?

Yes: *“A feast is made for laughter, and wine maketh merry: but money answereth all things” (Ecclesiastes 10:19).*

- **Proverbs 10:15 and Ecclesiastes 7:11-12.**
- This does not mean we should trust in money (**Psalms 49:6-7, Jeremiah 9:23, and Revelation 3:14-21**).

14. Can you curse those in power in private and think that your words or thoughts will stay private?

No: *“Curse not the king, no not in thy thought; and curse not the rich in thy bedchamber: for a bird of the air shall carry the voice, and that which hath wings shall tell the matter” (Ecclesiastes 10:20).*

- We’re supposed to honor the king (**Exodus 22:28 and I Peter 2:13-17**).
- That does not mean we cannot speak against their errors (**Luke 13:32-33**).
- Even if things said in this world escape the ears of others, they will be revealed (**Luke 12:1-5**).
- This includes what we think. If nothing else, God knows our thoughts (**Psalms 44:21**).