

Lent Day 15: Wednesday, March 8

## Ecclesiastes 10:1-20

### MULTIPLY YOUR WISDOM

**Ecclesiastes 10:12-14...***Words from the mouth of the wise are gracious, but fools are consumed by their own lips. At the beginning their words are folly; at the end they are wicked madness—and fools multiply words. No one knows what is coming—who can tell someone else what will happen after them?"*

The book of Ecclesiastes, one of the books called *Wisdom Literature*, is written to us as guidance for how to live practically. It is one of those books in the Bible where the language is so poetic one can be fooled into thinking that it is all to make us feel good. However, on closer reading, one will receive great wisdom and guidance from these teachings. Take, for example, Chapter 10, Verses 12-14. The writer begins by telling us that the words from the wise are gracious, and then it turns, "but fools are consumed by their own lips...and multiply their words."

Are you wise in your speech?

Do you speak too much?

Do you take time to listen in a conversation, or do you only wait to make a point?

James 1:19 reminds us to be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry. There is a direct correlation between your listening and your response to what you hear. Use your words wisely, and you won't be considered a fool.

If we want to be like Jesus in public, we need to be like Jesus in private. Jesus's listening skills were so sharp he would hear what was not said. God heard Jeremiah say that he was too young for his assignment (Jer. 1:6). Still, God spoke to the fear that was behind Jeremiah's words (1:17). There are many examples in the Bible of Jesus hearing what was not said, making people whole, instead of just healing a body part. He had to be a good listener for that to happen. This scripture teaches us to use our words wisely- talk less. How do you use your words?

### PRAYER:

*Lord, thank you for giving us instructions on how to live a life that is pleasing to you. Father, help me to communicate with grace and wisdom. Show me how to be encouraging, uplifting, and inspiring so it can multiply in someone else's life. In Jesus' Name...Amen.*