



“Walk prudently when you go to the house of God; and draw near to hear rather than to give the sacrifice of fools.” Ecclesiastes 5:1

You don't see it coming! You never do! If you did, you might side-step it. But it sneaks up on you and before you realize it, you've gone and done it – you've offered the sacrifice of fools! It is at once embarrassing and humbling. This sacrifice may alter your life or it may just be a small uncomfortable bump in your day. But whatever it is, this offering of fools is real and we must be careful not to offer such “gifts.”

What is this offering and how can we avoid it ourselves? From the life of the apostle Peter we gain some help. The glory of God the Father had descended upon the Lord Jesus and He is transformed before Peter, James and John's very eyes. In this glorious moment, rather than watch and worship in awe, Peter offers the sacrifice of fools! He begins to speak out of turn, out of place, and offer his opinions and plans to the Almighty! Imagine Peter's embarrassment when God the Father rebukes this fool's sacrifice! “This is My Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, hear Him!” (Matthew 17:5).

The counsel of James is helpful. “So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak...” (James 1:19a). Learn to measure your words. Practice holding your tongue and the opinions it offers. As the old adage goes, “better to keep your mouth closed and have people believe you're a fool than to open you mouth and remove all doubt!”

“Lord, forgive me for offering such sacrifices of fools! I desire my offerings – my words – to bless You rather than displease You. Teach me to hold my tongue. Teach me to measure my words. May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be found acceptable in Your sight!” (Psalm 19)

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