(Ecclesiastes 5:1-20)

INTRODUCTION - Yes, we all experience tragedies and reversals in our lives.

1. (v1-3) DON'T BLAME GOD FOR YOUR SITUATION (on your own, read: Job 40:1-8)

- (v1) "Watch your step when going before God" don't act irrationally.
- (v2) "Be not rash with thy mouth" be careful about complaining.
- 2. (v4-7) DON'T BRIBE GOD WITH A VOW be careful with your tongue.

3. (v8-9) DON'T BE SURPRISED AT THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE

(v8) "perverting of judgment and justice in a province, marvel not at the matter"

But the government we have is better than lawlessness; just don't pin your hopes on it.

Sometimes they help themselves more than helping those they are supposed to serve.

4. (v10-20) DON'T BE DECEIVED CONCERNING RICHES

(v10-17) 5 things you should know about money:

- 1) (v10) The more you have, the more you want.
- 2) (v11) The more you have, the more you spend.
- 3) (v12) The more you have, the more you worry ("lose sleep").
- 4) (v13-14a) The more you have, the more you lose: "riches perish by misfortune"
- 5) (v14b-17) The more you have, the more you leave: "As he came forth of his mother's womb, naked shall he return to go as he came, and shall take nothing of his labor, which he may carry away in his hand."

(v18-20) 2 things you need to know about God:

(on your own, read: Deut. 8:6-20)

- 1) (v18) Your ability to earn money is a gift from God.
- 2) (v19-20) Your ability to enjoy money is a gift from God.

CLOSE: Putting God first, thank Him for our work and the enjoyment of its rewards here.