

DUCT TAPE SPIRITUALITY

Ecclesiastes 5:1-7

- I. The "**Duct Tape**" principle - silence calls us to understand our **place before God**. (Ecclesiastes 5:1-3)

- II. The danger of talking too much is this - we make **promises**, God is **listening**...and He takes our words seriously! (Ecclesiastes 5:4-7)

- III. How does the **Holy Spirit** use our silence?
 - A. The Holy Spirit can use silence to rearrange our understanding of "**relationship with God**".
 - B. The Holy Spirit can use silence to open up the **lines of communication** between us and God..
 - C. The Holy Spirit can use silence to counter the **world/Devil's** methods.

"I think the devil has made it his business to monopolize three elements: noise, hurry and crowds. Satan is quite aware of the power of silence."¹

- IV. How do I make silence a helpful **practice**?
 - A. Mark out a **sanctuary** to regularly visit.
 - B. Shush the **inner-committees** that vie for your attention.
 - C. **Meditate** on Scripture to set up your time of quiet

Good meditation on Scripture involves basically five things:

1. Jesus' cross and resurrection.
2. Regular Bible study (reading whole books in paragraphs, not individual verses).
3. Turning the verse you've chosen (from your regular Bible study) over and over in your head in order to listen.
4. Inviting God to speak as He wills
5. Practice!

Study Questions for September 6

1. Read Ecclesiastes 12:1-14 five times this week.
2. What images does Qoheleth use in Ecclesiastes 12:1-7 to describe death? What do these images evoke in you?
3. What is the final exhortation in the book of Ecclesiastes in 12:13? What is the reason in 12:14? How does the whole of Ecclesiastes lead us to this conclusion?
4. How does the resurrection change or enhance some of the thoughts in Ecclesiastes 12? How does it change the way you look at death?
5. How would you use the knowledge of death to enhance your walk with Christ?

¹Farrar, p. 79