

## Don't be Hasty

*Do not be hasty to speak, and do not be impulsive to make a speech before God. God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few.*

~ Ecclesiastes 5:2

### Discover the Context Ecclesiastes 5



Think of one or two things you can do today in each of these areas.

► Creation. What can you do to allow the beauty of God's created world minister to your soul?

► Community. What can you do to listen and not just be heard, to understand and not just be right?

► God's word. What can you do to feast on his word so that your words are fewer?



Read Isaiah 6:1-7. What about Isaiah's encounter with God would have caused him to be slow to speak? Read Luke 5:1-11. What about Peter's encounter with Jesus would have caused him to be slow to speak? Has anything happened to you this summer that would cause you to be slow to speak?



Speak Lord, I am listening. You are God, and I am not.

Camp is a good place to be still and to be reminded of our place in this created world. The wonder and beauty of God's creation should stir our hearts to worship in a quiet and reverent humility. He is the maker of the mountains; he is the one who holds all things together. There is a precious freedom in knowing that we are so small and that he is Lord of all.

That's why the writer of Ecclesiastes says that we shouldn't be hasty to speak. That we shouldn't be impulsive to say what we think. God is God, and we are not. Our words and attitudes should reflect our acceptance of our humble position.

Culture baits us into blabbing our opinions and thoughts as though our every utterance were a divine gift to humanity. The algorithms target our insecurities and reward our weak attempts at digital community. We post, hashtag, and paste banners to be heard and seen. We stand on issues we consider important, and we distance ourselves from those who disagree. Camp is an opportunity for something better, something counter cultural, something that requires humility. Culture is a frenzy of hasty utterances—what if camp was a place of humble listening? What if camp was marked by a commitment of everyone on staff to reflect our humble place before God in heaven? Imagine how it would impact your campers, your guests, your coworkers, if you led the way in a quiet humility.

A right relationship with God will lead to a right relationship with others, but we must learn to listen. Quiet your mind and read the heart of God.

In the Bible he has given us a glimpse into his nature and his goodness through the person of Jesus Christ. Every page and teaching in Scripture is a gracious gift of revelation—he has made himself known in so many ways. We need only to shut our mouths and hear what he has already said. We need to be more humble and talk less. (MSR)