



Small Group Questions

Message: March 12, 2023

Speaker: Pastor Bob

Series: *Meaning In The Madness*

Topic: "The Fight Against Folly"

Texts: Ecclesiastes 9:17-10:20

1. Start your group time by discussing the buffalo image we used at the beginning of the message. (1) For fun, what would it be like to chase a *real* buffalo? (2) What are the symbolic buffalos you may be chasing? Why is it important to, sometimes, shoot the buffalo? (**John Owen: "Be killing sin or sin will be killing you."**)
2. When I say the word, "Fool," who is the first person you think of? Discuss the definition of "Folly." Why it is important to understand the being a fool has nothing to do with IQ? Are there times in your life when you have been tempted by folly? Pastor Bob offered THREE CATEGORIES: (1) Relational (2) Financial (3) Spiritual.
3. **Read Ecclesiastes 10:1-4.** What do you think about the image of dead flies? Why is Solomon using that image in these verses? (Look back and see the parallel in 9:17 where one sinner affects an outcome.)
4. In this section, Pastor Bob discussed two principals in our fight against folly: (1) **Watch Your Path** (10:2-3) and (2) **Hold Your Ground** (10:4). Why are those principals important in helping us not "play the fool" in daily life? If you are comfortable—share a time when you acted like a fool and people saw.
5. **Read Ecclesiastes 10:5-11.** What can the image of charming a snake before it bites teach us about wise living? For fun—is anyone afraid of snakes?
6. This section outlines FOUR Circumstances that can happen to anyone: (1) **The Pit** (Examine the Road) (2) **The Wall** (Examine the Structure) (3) **The Stone** (Examine the Task) and (4) **The Ax** (Examine the Tool). Find them in the text and discuss the principals they can teach us. (**For leaders—I noted the principals above.**)
7. **Read Ecclesiastes 10:12-15; 18-20.** This last section has much to say about how we use words. Read vv. 12-13 again and discuss where you see this play out in our culture, church, families.
8. We applied this principal to the topic of **REACTIVITY** in communication. Would you consider yourself *reactive* with your words? How does this effect the use of words, nonverbal communication and relationships?
9. Author Paul Tripp writes this, "*We cannot, we must not, normalize a reactivity culture that is more of a culture of harm than a culture of grace.*" How can we do this? What are some practical steps in our own lives?
10. **As you close, read Colossians 4:5-6.** As a group, pray for one another and as God help each of you: (1) Walk with wisdom (2) Guard your speech (3) Love people who have questions.