

# Coach House Church BEACONS

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## CHASING AFTER THE WIND

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Boasting is something that we, as humans are very good at from a very young age. We love to have something better, to know something more, to be something greater than our fellow human beings. Humility and meekness does not come to us naturally.

Solomon had a lot to say about boasting, humility and meekness in the book of Proverbs and also in Ecclesiastes. Let's read a few verses:

"Do not exalt yourself in the king's presence, and do not claim a place among his great men; it is better for him to say to you, "Come up here," than for him to humiliate you before his nobles."

Proverbs 25:6-7 NIV

"Like clouds and wind without rain is one who boasts of gifts never given."

Proverbs 25:14 NIV

"He( The Lord ) mocks proud mockers but shows favor to the humble and oppressed."

Proverbs 3:34 NIV

"Better a poor but wise youth than an old but foolish king who no longer knows how to heed a warning. The youth may have come from prison to the kingship, or he may have been born in poverty within his kingdom. I saw that all who lived and walked under the sun followed the youth, the king's successor. There was no end to all the people who were before them. But those who came later were not pleased with the successor. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind."

Ecclesiastes 4:13-16 NIV

Solomon points out the the good by contrasting it with the bad. He tells us the do's and don'ts in the same sentence. His teachings are, most of the time, classed as common sense - unwritten rules against which there is no law nevertheless, they are just as important as the law.

We read at the beginning of Ecclesiastes the he, Solomon, purposely studied the human wisdom and madneses; he tells us that there is an appropriate time for everything; he also tells us that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and then comes to the conclusion that, "all that people do under the sun is meaningless". However if you read the very last few verses of the book, he tells us that the meaning and purpose of the lives people live on this Earth cannot be found in human endeavours, but only in knowing God.

Solomon warned against boasting that led to pride and trust in the human nature and worldly wealth which turned people's hearts away from the real living God. The prophet Jeremiah tells the following :

"This is what the Lord says: "Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the Lord."

Jeremiah 9:23-24 NIV

Jeremiah also brings a warning against boasting because the people had forgotten what Solomon had taught them. He develops the theme by telling them what they could boast about : a relationship with God. This relationship with God, if pursued, led to an inner transformation to mirror God's kindness, righteousness and justice in which he delights .

In the New Testament in 2 Corinthians 11 Paul tells us that all he has to boast about is his weakness, and throughout his teachings he encourages people to boast in the Lord. What he meant by this was that they, his readers back then and his readers now, were all saved, redeemed and called sons and daughters of the Lord - because of Jesus. Because of what he did. He suffered and died to save us all and God the Father brought him back to life .

Let's Pray: Lord Jesus , thank you for what you have done for us . Thank you for our new name and our new life in you. Lord I pray that we would only boast with what you have done. When we were far away from you, you came to live on the earth and die to pay off our debt. Without you we would still be lost in sin but because of you, we live and we will live forever together with you. Praise you Jesus  
Amen



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