

SUNDAY - June 14, 2026

The Grind: Ecclesiastes 10:1-20 - The Fool

SERMON SUMMARY:

Ecclesiastes 10 warns that even small acts of foolishness can have devastating consequences, while wisdom quietly protects every area of life. Solomon encourages us to guard our words, sharpen our skills, stay humble, lead responsibly, and handle problems with patience rather than panic. By inviting God's wisdom into our daily decisions, we can avoid unnecessary regret and live with greater faithfulness and purpose.

SCRIPTURE:

Ecclesiastes 10:1-20, James 1:19, Matthew 18:15-17

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. According to the first few verses of Ecclesiastes 10, what is the effect of a little folly on a person of great wisdom and honor?
2. What specific examples does the text use to illustrate the dangers and consequences of foolish work (verses 8-11)?
3. What are the characteristics of foolish leadership described in verses 16-19?
4. What practical antidote for foolishness is suggested in verse 4 when a problem arises?
5. The text warns that a person's reputation can be ruined by one mistake more easily than it is built by many successes. Why do you think human nature tends to focus on and remember the negative so strongly?
6. Verse 10 states that using a dull ax requires more strength but that sharpening the blade brings success. How does this metaphor apply to the way we approach our daily work and recurring problems in life?
7. Foolish speech is described as starting foolishly and ending in mad evil (v. 13). What is the progression that leads seemingly small, careless words to create significant damage in relationships or a person's life?
8. The chapter describes a land as blessed when its king is noble and its princes feast at the proper time for strength, not for drunkenness (v. 17). What is the connection between a leader's self-discipline and the well-being of those they lead?
9. A "little folly" can spoil much wisdom, often starting with a small, hidden compromise. What is one "small" area in your life—a thought pattern, a habit, a relationship—where you feel a need for increased vigilance to prevent a larger moral failure?
10. The principle of "sharpening the ax" involves improving skills and systems to stop repeated mistakes. Is there a recurring frustration or failure in your work or home life that you keep dealing with? What is one practical step you could take this week to "sharpen your ax" and address the root cause instead of just the symptom?
11. Words have the power to shape reputations and destroy relationships. Recall a recent conversation where you felt tempted to speak impulsively, gossip, or offer an opinion on

something you knew little about. What would it look like to pause and pray for restraint before speaking in a similar situation this week?

12. The text and the sermon highlight the damage of public gossip versus private correction. Is there a situation where you have been talking *about* someone instead of courageously and humbly talking *to* them? What would be a first step toward a biblical approach to address that relational wrong?
13. How could the simple habit of inviting Jesus into your ordinary, mundane decisions—like starting your workday, having a difficult conversation, or responding to frustration—change your perspective and actions in those moments?
14. Foolishness is often linked to a lack of order and humility. What is one area of your life that feels chaotic or disordered (e.g., finances, schedule, a room in your house)? How might imposing a small bit of order there be an act of wisdom that prevents a future accident or failure?
15. Gratitude is presented as a discipline that transforms ordinary pleasures into spiritual practice. What one routine part of your day could you reframe through thankfulness to resist despair or entitlement?
16. The passage acknowledges that outcomes don't always match effort or wisdom. How can you maintain commitment to doing what is right when results are uncertain or when others seem to prosper through luck rather than integrity?