

# TRUTH & RIGHT

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## RASH WORDS

The first seven verses of Ecclesiastes 5 warns us about the words we say. In this passage, we see that “*a multitude of words*” is associated with foolish behavior (v. 3), vanity (v. 7), evil (v. 1), and sin (v. 6). Parallel to this is what Christ taught in Matthew 6. He said that the heathen (Gentiles, nations, etc.) think they’ll be heard in their prayers because of their “*much speaking*” (Matt. 6:7). Yet, God didn’t acknowledge their “speaking.” Even most men see through the tactics of someone who “talks too much”! Don’t be like that. How many times do we “shoot off our mouths” and not consider what we said until later, if ever? Solomon, by inspiration, makes it clear that our words can cause us great trouble. We’re reminded that God is vigilant in noting what we say (Ecc. 5:2b). This

warning is repeated in such New Testament passages as Matthew 12:36-37, and James 3:1-12. In the book of Ecclesiastes, the Preacher says that our mouths can cause our flesh to sin (Ecc. 5:6). How closely do you watch what you say? David said, “I will keep my mouth with a bridle” (Ps. 39:1). What’ll you do? In our age of “social media,” remember that our “rash words” can be written as well as spoken. Are you careful to guard your words on social media? Are you careful about the stories you share? Typed words will condemn us as quickly as the words that come from our mouths! As we read Ecclesiastes 5, we note that verse four tells us to make sure and pay our vows when we make them. While this isn’t a passage talking exclusively about marriage, marriage vows

are promises we make to our spouse and God, promising, "til death do us part," among other things. Married people, are you honoring your vows? Man's vows are so significant that it's written that it's better for us not to vow than to make a vow and not pay or fulfill it (v. 5). How are we doing in honoring the vows we make? See, if you make vows, but don't keep them, then you're a liar (Rev. 21:8)! Making vows also includes our debts! If you promise to pay someone back when you make a debt, then this is a vow. You need to make sure and pay your debts as you promised to do! "*By thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words, thou shalt be condemned*" (Matt. 12:37). Let's take the words of Christ and Solomon to heart. Our words are precious! Our words are the vehicles of our thoughts. We need to control our thoughts and make sure we don't "engage our mouths when our brains are in neutral"! "*Keep thy foot*" (Ecc. 5:1) means behave yourself! Let us behave ourselves and watch our words when we offer our sacrifices to God (Ecc. 5:1; Heb. 13:15; I Pet. 2:5), and in our daily speech! Jesus said our words can save, or our words will condemn. Why is it that many of our politicians have no respect by the populace? It's

because these people talk a lot, they promise (vow) a lot, and many times, their words amount to nothing! We judge them as liars because they promised things and never fulfilled their promises/vows! How refreshing it would be to hear a politician who didn't promise anything except to represent constituents to the best of his ability! That's enough! Someone said that they prayed that their words might always be sweet, for one day, they may have to "eat them"! How true! Let's follow the command of Ephesians 4:29, 32, Ecclesiastes 5, James 1:19, and chapter 3 when we speak! We'll be blessed immensely when we aren't "rash" (hasty) to speak. — Jarrod Jacobs "*Peter seeing him said to Jesus, "Lord, and what about this man? Jesus said to him, if I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow Me*" (Jn. 21:21-22). In John 21, Peter asks Jesus about John. Jesus tells Peter, don't worry about what I've planned for that man, you follow Me! In other words, keep your nose out of John's business and focus on following Me! I'm sure we've all heard folks say, "I left the church because there are hypocrites." Or, "I don't want to get involved with the work because I don't like the preacher or the elders." O, how we need to

listen to the words of our Lord Jesus. While it's true there are hypocrites in the church (and in every other aspect of life), that doesn't need to deter us from following Christ. Why'd you allow someone else to determine the fate of your soul? Why'd you put your eternal inheritance in jeopardy because of someone else? Why become unfruitful and cut off from Christ because you don't like someone (Jn. 15:5)? We need to focus on following Jesus no matter what. We need a single-minded focus on Jesus, the author, and perfecter of faith (Heb. 12:2). We need to be firmly rooted and built up in Him and established in our faith (Col. 2:7). This is a tall task from our Lord, but we can do it. How do I know? Because Jesus said so! Let's look at a couple of ways we can remain undeterred in our walk with the Lord. God's truly awesome. Ephesians 3:20 says that God can do beyond all I can ask or think. Think about the implications of that spiritual truth. That's not a statement to make us feel good. Let's remember: *"All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness"* (2 Tim. 3:16). When considering God's greatness, let's think beyond miracles. We know

miracles have ceased (1 Cor. 13:8-10). Think in terms of spiritual blessings in Christ, God's promises, partaking of His divine nature, and God's providential care in your life. Scripture reveals that Jesus is the Creator and Sustainer of the universe (Jn. 1:3; Col. 1:16-17). Think about how powerful a Being must be to speak this universe into existence out of nothing (Gen. 1:1). We've not even touched on God's magnificent plan to save mankind from sin. If God can do all this, then we need to believe that God can hear our prayers (Jas. 5:16-17). We need to believe that God will save us from our sins by the blood of His Son (Heb. 9:22; Rev. 1:5). We need to believe that God will raise us from the dead and *"transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory"* (Phil. 3:21). Focusing on God's greatness and remembering His benefits will keep us faithful (Ps. 103). Focusing on God's greatness will keep our appetite for righteousness insatiable (Matt. 5:6; Ps. 42:1-2).

- Jordan Lawson

# People, Places, and Things of the **BIBLE**



## *Son of Immer Inscription Found*

As the Temple Mount Sifting Project reopened in a new Jerusalem location, researchers announced the discovery of a clay seal impression (bulla), identifying it as “the first readable ancient Hebrew inscription found on the Temple Mount.” The priestly family of Immer served in the temple (1 Chron. 24:14). Pashur, son of Immer, is called the chief official in the temple of Yahweh, when he had Jeremiah beaten and put in the stocks (Jer. 20:1–2). Minister of Jerusalem Affairs and Heritage Zeev Elkin played show and tell at the June 2 Cabinet meeting this week. To mark Jerusalem Day, a national holiday celebrating the 1967 reunification of Jerusalem, Elkin brought to the Prime Minister’s Office a rare 2,700-year-old First Temple clay sealing impression, fittingly inscribed with the name of a priestly family of Temple Mount political administrators. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu studied the minuscule artifact and called for a magnifying glass to read the faint paleo-Hebrew script while Elkin explained that he had just arrived from the relaunch of the Temple Mount Sifting project, an “amazing” endeavor that has unearthed huge amounts of fascinating artifacts, he said. After a two-year hiatus, the project, up and running again since Sunday, is now housed in a previously abandoned tree-filled grove in east Jerusalem, located at the nexus of the Mount of Olives and Hebrew University’s Mount Scopus campus. As in the previous nearby location, paying volunteers sort through a jumble of debris and earth that was illegally excavated by Muslim authorities from the Temple Mount, a site holy to all three monotheistic religions. The clay seal impression Elkin brought to the meeting bears the fragmented ancient Hebrew inscription,



“(Belonging to) [...] lyahu (son of) Immer,” which could be read as “Belonging to Ga’alyahu son of Immer.” The inscribed name references a priestly family mentioned in the Book of Jeremiah, thought to have lived in the 7<sup>th</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> Centuries BCE. According to archaeologist Zachi Dvira, co-director of the Temple Mount Sifting Project, aside from almost illegible fragments of ancient Hebrew inscriptions on potsherds, “this is the first readable ancient Hebrew inscription ever found from the Temple Mount.”