

# WHAT A FOOL LOOKS LIKE

## *Ecclesiastes 10:12-20*

**MAIN IDEA:** A fool is revealed by what he says and how he leads.

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What a fool looks like . . .

### **I. IN THE WORDS THAT HE SAYS (Eccl. 10:12-15)**

#### **A. *His words do great damage (10:12).***

- The words of the *wise* are *gracious* (10:12a).
- The words of the *fool* are *destructive* (10:12b).
  - To others (cp. Prov. 12:18; 25:18)
  - To himself (Eccl. 10:12; cp. Prov. 13:3; 21:23)

#### **B. *His words make no sense (10:13).***

- There is a *pointlessness* in his speech: it doesn't make *sense*.
- There is a *progression* in his speech: from foolishness to wicked *madness* (*insanity*).

#### **C. *His words have no end (10:14a; cp. 5:3; Prov. 10:19).***

- There is a lack of meaningful *content*.
- There is a lack of self-control.

#### **D. *His words make empty boasts (10:14b-15).***

- He doesn't know *what* will happen in the *future* (10:14b; cp. 3:22; 6:12; 8:7; 9:12; Jas. 4:13-17; Luke 12:16-20).
- He doesn't know *where* he is going in the *present* (10:15).

### **II. IN THE WAY THAT HE LEADS (Eccl. 10:16-20)**

#### **A. *The foolishness of the leaders over the people (10:16-19)***

##### ***Characteristics of foolish leaders:***

- Childish *immaturity* (10:16a; cp. Isa. 3:4-5, 12)
  - Not referring to age, but to *youthful* immaturity
  - A *sign of judgment on a nation* (cp. Isa. 3:4-5, 12)
- Selfish *indulgence* (10:16b-17; cp. Isa. 5:11)
  - The *curse on the land* when the rulers are given to indulgence (10:16b; cp. Isa. 5:11)
  - The *blessing on the land* when the rulers are under control (10:17)
- Destructive *idleness* (10:18)
  - The *indulgence leads to idleness*.
  - The *results of such leadership are destructive*.
- Materialistic *indifference* (10:19)
  - *Indulgence and idleness lead to indifference to the task and the needs of the people*.
  - *They live for all that money can buy*.

#### **B. *The foolishness of the people toward the leaders (10:20)***

- Be careful what you *say* and *think* about leaders (cp. Ex. 22:28; cp. Rom. 13:1-7; I Pet. 2:13-17).
- Realize that what you say *secretly* may be broadcast *publicly*.

❖ *Be careful what you say to others: be wise, not foolish, in your speech.*

❖ *Be careful how you lead others: be wise as a leader and as one being led.*