

What's That I Smell?

Ecclesiastes 10:1-7

I. Follow Your Heart? (2-3)**A) The Prevailing Wisdom****B) The Prescient Warning****II. Beware your Expectations (4-7)****A) Good Advice (4)****B) General Application (5-7)**

- 1 Dead flies putrefy the perfumer's ointment,
And cause it to give off a foul odor;
So does a little folly to one respected for wisdom and honor.
- 2 A wise man's heart is at his right hand,
But a fool's heart at his left.
- 3 Even when a fool walks along the way,
He lacks wisdom,
And he shows everyone that he is a fool.
- 4 If the spirit of the ruler rises against you,
Do not leave your post;
For conciliation pacifies great offenses.
- 5 There is an evil I have seen under the sun,
As an error proceeding from the ruler:
- 6 Folly is set in great dignity,
While the rich sit in a lowly place.
- 7 I have seen servants on horses,
While princes walk on the ground like servants.

Small Group Questions

1. Popular culture is full of the lie, "Follow your heart." I mentioned Disney as a classic example of this. Give some examples of other places where popular culture does this. What else that is unbiblical is being taught in this way?
2. Solomon says in Proverbs 15:1 that a soft answer turns away wrath. Share times in your own life when you did or did not do this and the outcomes.
3. Solomon's overarching advice with regards to people in places of power is to beware. Wisdom and man will always let you down in the end. What biblical principles should we be holding on to rather than man and his wisdom?