

SERMON OUTLINE Ecclesiastes 1:12-18

There Is Mystery in Wisdom

THREE PRELIMINARY MATTERS

WISDOM AS AN INTERPRETATIVE LENS FOR LIFE UNDER THE SUN

Examining Every Aspect of Life Under the Sun

Using Only Wisdom

THE RESULT OF USING WISDOM AS AN INTERPRETATIVE LENS FOR LIFE UNDER THE SUN

Unhappy Business (13)

Vanity (14, 17)

Beyond Repair (15)

Much Vexation (18)

Increased Sorrow (18)

LIVING UNDER THE SUN ACCORDING TO THE ABOVE THE SUN WISDOM OF GOD

Sin of Mankind

The Sovereignty of God

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

The big idea of this passage is that all human wisdom has limits. Wisdom is better than folly, but it is not sufficient to predict life under the sun with 100% accuracy. And that is often really, really frustrating. The main takeaway, therefore, is to seek wisdom, reject folly, and live ultimately according to the promises of God that are ours in Jesus.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. Had you ever thought of trying to understand the world around you as a command from God? How often do you intentionally try to think on such things? How does it typically go? What have you learned?
3. What do you make of the Preacher's quest for understanding? What stands out to you the most?
4. What percent of life under the sun do you think you've considered? What do you make of the Preacher's claim of "everything"?
5. Do you tend to think of yourself as a wise person? What kind of wisdom? How has your wisdom shaped your life?
6. How was the Preacher's wisdom a help and a hindrance on his quest to understand the world?
7. Which of the Preacher's conclusions have you most experienced in this life?
8. Is it easy for you to see how different the things the Preacher discovered are in light of God's promises? How have you experienced the reality of that in your own life?
9. In what way/s did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

10. Read through the Bible and pay careful attention to the promises of God. Ask God to help you believe and live them.
11. Ask a non-Christian friend or neighbor to read Ecclesiastes with you and/or invite them to church to hear it preached.
12. Share the gospel with someone in order that they might experience new life in Jesus and escape the weariness of life.
13. Spend some time this week really considering the things you experience in light of God's Word.
14. When you find yourself responding to life under the sun as the Preacher did, ask God to help you remember His promises.
15. Ask two different people in your family or DG (1) One thing they got from this sermon, and (2) How you can pray for them.
16. Pick one specific thing you mean to do differently as a result of the things you saw or heard in this text or sermon.

PRAYER POINTS

17. Adoration. Praise God for being above the sun. Praise God for being all wise. Praise God for being the sovereign ruler of all. Praise God for being the redeemer and restorer. Praise God that He is always and only good.
18. Confess. Confess any ways you've been content with or chosen to live by under the sun wisdom. Confess any ways you've tried to find happiness exclusively under the sun. Confess any ways you've blamed God for your hardships. Confess any ways you've tried to make things straight by your own power. Confess your failure to read, study, pray, and live God's Word.
19. Thanksgiving. Thank God for giving you His Word, Son, and Spirit. Thank God for a church that helps you find and live out of above the sun wisdom. Thank God for the whole counsel of God's Word. Thank God for making crooked things straight in Jesus. Thank God for allowing you to count your trials as joy. Thank God for specific expressions of His kindness.
20. Supplication. Ask God to grant someone in your life an above the sun perspective. Ask God to help someone to escape the vanity of this life. Ask God to help us remember His promises when life is hard. Ask God to give us His joy.