

SERMON OUTLINE Ecclesiastes 7:10-12

The Preacher's Proverbs - Part 4

INTRODUCTION

THE PREACHER'S PROVERBS

Reject the Myth of the Glory Days (10)

Use Wisdom and Money as Shields (12)

Get Above the Sun and Tell Your Kids What You See (11)

Creation (Genesis 1-2)

Fall (Genesis 3; Romans 3:9-20)

Redemption (Genesis 3:15, John 3:1-21)

Restoration (2 Peter 3:1-13; Revelation 21-22)

CONCLUSION

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

The big ideas of this passage are that God made the world to function in a certain way and, therefore, as we learn that way and conform to it, things tend to go better for us. Likewise, when we are ignorant of God's ways or out of conformity to them, things tend to go worse. And the main takeaway is to order our lives according to God's design and wisdom for his glory and our good.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. If you could have been alive at any point in history, when would you choose and why?
3. Have you ever felt like the former days are better than these? Why do you think it seems like that (especially as we get older)?
4. As you read through Ecclesiastes, does it seem like we have fundamentally different questions or struggles than they did?
5. Can you think of anything from history that would confirm the Preacher's claim that there is nothing new under the sun?
6. When you are afraid, where do you go? Or, what provides you with the most protection in life?
7. How have money and wisdom served as a protection for you? How have they failed to do so?
8. What are your thoughts on leaving your kids with an inheritance? If there's one thing you wish your parents would leave you with, what would it be? Or, if you could leave one thing behind for your kids, what would you choose?
9. Are you familiar with the "creation, fall, redemption, restoration" storyline? Do you think it accurately captures the Bible's story?
10. Can you see how that storyline reshapes the Preacher's proverbs? Does it help you see why the Preacher's tone is what it is?
11. Which "movement" within the story is most interesting to you? Helpful? Confusing? Exciting?
12. Which of the Preacher's proverbs that we've considered has stood out to you the most? Why? What have you done about it?
13. In what way/s did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

14. Find one way to make today better (instead of longing for some better time from the past).
15. Read [Heaven by Randy Alcorn](#) or the last chapter (on the new heavens and earth) in [Wayne Grudem's Systematic Theology](#).
16. Find one way to better provide wisdom and resources for your family (physical and spiritual), now and for when you're gone.
17. Check out [Pastor Dave's reading list](#). Make a list of the books you'd add to or take off the list. Start collecting them.
18. Read [Counterfeit Gospels](#) by Trevin Wax.
19. Learn to tell the larger story of the Bible (by using passages from the Bible) and read the Bible in light of it.
20. 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.
21. Pick one specific thing you mean to do differently, with the Spirit's help, as a result of the things you heard in this text/sermon.

PRAYER POINTS

22. Adoration. Praise God that He is the author and ruler of all. Praise God that He is sovereign, wise, and good. Praise God that He is creator and recreator. Praise God that He is the perfect provider and protector and preserver.
23. Confess. Confess the folly of believing that the former days are better. Confess an indifference to making today better for the glory of God. Confess failure to provide what God has called you to provide. Confess trusting in something other than God.
24. Thanksgiving. Thank God for making all things new. Thank God for giving wisdom. Thank God for His grace. Thank God for His provision. Thank God for Jesus. Thank God for showing you your place in His story. Thank God for His Word.
25. Supplication. Ask God to help us live in light of the greatest story. Ask God to bring contentment. Ask God to give you real trust in the inheritance He's promised. Ask God to provide some specific need for yourself or someone you know.