

SERMON OUTLINE Ecclesiastes 8:1-9

The Face of the Wise and the Command of the King

THE FACE OF THE WISE (1)

The Wise Stand Out

1. *The wise stand out in their knowledge of how to make sense of the things happening around them.*
2. *The wise stand out in appearance.*

Gaining Wisdom

1. *Pay attention when you're around wisdom.*
2. *Spend time around older people.*
3. *Read good books.*
4. *Do hard and worthwhile things.*
5. *Assume responsibility.*
6. *Prefer analogue.*

THE COMMAND OF THE KING (2-9)

Obey the King (2)

Respect the King (3-4)

Disobey the King Carefully (3)

All of this for Three Main Reasons (2-6)

1. *We ought to obey respectfully and disobey carefully because kings and rulers are appointed by God (2).*
2. *Subjects should obey because their kings, by definition, can do whatever they want (3-4).*
3. *Good kings command good things and wherever that's the case, obedience keeps us from evil (5).*

All of this in Humility (6-8)

A WORD ON AUTHORITY AND DISOBEDIENCE IN THE BIBLE

Legitimate Authority

1. *Only God has original and supreme authority.*
2. *All legitimate authority among men is derivative and limited.*
3. *Where authority is legitimately exercised among men, to obey men is to obey God and to disobey men is to disobey God.*

Legitimate Disobedience

1. *Legitimate disobedience is only in areas explicitly opposed to God's commands.*
2. *Disobedience to legitimate authority must always be a fearful and grievous thing.*
3. *Disobedience ought only be in the specific area and for the specific time that obedience to man equals disobedience to God.*
4. *Our heart's posture in our legitimate disobedience ought to be for the authority over us to repent.*

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

The big idea and applications of this sermon are that because under the sun wisdom has real benefits and kings have real power, living well in this world means seeking wisdom and submitting wisely and humbly to God-given authority.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. What does church usually look like for you when you are on vacation (especially when you're out of town)?
3. Do you think of yourself as a wise person? Where did your wisdom come from primarily?
4. Who is the wisest person you know? How does their wisdom typically show up (how are they different than others)?
5. Have you noticed anything different in the appearance (or demeanor) in the wisest people you know?
6. Which of the "six practical suggestions for gaining wisdom" (listed above) do you most need to apply?
7. Are you typically characterized by respectful obedience and careful disobedience to the God-appointed authorities over you?
8. What do you think of the fact that God has always used (even appointed) imperfect, sinful people to lead His people?
9. Where, specifically, have you benefited from good earthly leadership? What has it looked like?
10. Which aspects of legitimate authority and disobedience stand out to you and why?
11. What comfort do you find in the fact that Jesus is the Good King who sits on His throne with all authority?
12. In what way/s did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

13. Pick one of Pastor Dave's six suggestions on gaining wisdom and begin working at it this week. Find someone to help you.
14. Identify any areas in which you are struggling to respectfully obey the God-given authority in your life. Find help.
15. Identify any areas in which you are struggling to fully embrace the authority given to you by God. Find help.
16. Identify any areas in which you are struggling to disobey legitimately. Find help.
17. Try to make your face shine with wisdom. Spend some time with someone whose face already does.
18. Do your best to communicate the nature and implications of the fact that Jesus is the King of kings.
19. 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.
20. 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

21. Adoration. Praise God that He is perfectly and entirely wise. Praise God that His glory shines throughout the earth. Praise God that He is the King of kings and Lord of lords. Praise God that He is sovereign, wise, and good. Praise God for being perfect in His promise keeping. Praise God that His Word is truly supreme. Praise God that He is omniscient.
22. Confess. Confess an indifference to wisdom or contentment in folly. Ask God to reveal any areas of disobedience that habitually mark your life and confess them as sin. Confess any ways you are taking God's kingship lightly. Confess pride. Confess any ways you've taken a stand for evil.
23. Thanksgiving. Thank God for our time in Ecclesiastes and the wisdom He's given us through it. Thank God for making your face shine in His grace. Thank God for His perfect rule over us. Thank God for the gospel.
24. Supplication. Ask God to make us wise in His eyes. Ask God to give us wisdom and faithfulness for the next thirty years. Ask God to help us obey Him and the authorities He's appointed over us. Ask God to help us disobey legitimately when necessary. Ask God to help us to live as though life is Christ and death is gain. Ask God to fill us with love for Him and one another.