

SERMON OUTLINE Ecclesiastes 11:7-10

Serious Joy for the Old and the Young

INTRODUCTION

SERIOUS JOY FOR THE OLD (7-8)

SERIOUS JOY FOR THE YOUNG (9-10)

CONCLUSION

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

The big idea is that even in this fallen, mysterious, often painful world, by God's design and at God's hand, there is serious joy for us to experience throughout all life. Experiencing that joy looks a bit different when we're old than when we're young, but it's there for us all. The main takeaway, then, is to rejoice in whatever good things God gives us, throughout whatever life God gives us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. What is the most consistent source of joy in your life? How has that changed as you've gotten older?
3. Is it natural for you to notice evidences of God's grace in creation? When you do, is it natural for you to rejoice in them?
4. What created thing (joy cache) most easily fills you with an awareness of God's presence and joy?
5. What is it that most often keeps you from noticing God's joy caches in creation?
6. Have you found yourself more cynical, grumpy, or otherwise prone to melancholy as you get older? Why/not? How does this passage both acknowledge and dispel that tendency?
7. How does hardship increase joy? How have you experienced that?
8. If you are an older person, how can you cultivate more joy in your life according to this passage? How can you share that with others, especially the younger people in your life?
9. If you are a younger person, where do you typically look for joy? How can you help the older people in your life find more joy? How are you especially tempted to find joy in ungodly places?
10. How does knowledge of God's certain judgment of all your joys shape your joys?
11. How have you found joy in Jesus? How has it been hard for you to find joy in Jesus?
12. In what way/s did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

13. Make a plan to unhurriedly and prayerfully watch a sunrise, a sunset, the stars at night, or the moon's reflection on a lake this week. Or, make a plan to open some other under the sun joy-cache.
14. If you are older: (1) Fight the temptation to grumble and (2) Find a way to share your deeper joy with a young person this week.
15. If you are younger: (1) Make it a point to test your joy this week and (2) Invite an older person into one of your simpler joys.
16. Read on the doctrines of hell and final judgment in a systematic theology.
17. Share the good news with someone that they can be forgiven of their sins of lesser joy and welcomed into the fullness of joy.
18. 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.
19. 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

20. Adoration. Praise God that He alone is perfectly sweet, pleasant, joyful, light, and cheerful. Praise God that He is righteous and just. Praise God that He is eternal and omniscient. Praise God that He is omnipotent and perfectly ordered.
21. Confess. Confess having too little joy in the right places and too much joy in the wrong places. Confess your love for the darkness. Confess idolatry of youth. Confess grumbling. Confess a lack of seriousness concerning the coming judgment.
22. Thanksgiving. Thank God for specific expressions of grace and mercy in your life. Thank Him for the under the sun and above the sun joys He's flooded creation with. Thank God for the youth and the senior saints in our church.
23. Supplication. Ask God to fill all of us with the right kinds of joy and a severe distaste for the wrong kinds.