

SERMON OUTLINE Ecclesiastes 7:3-7

The Preacher's Proverbs - Part 2

INTRODUCTION

THE PREACHER'S PROVERBS

Sorrow Is Better than Laughter (3)

Wisdom Thinks About things that Matter (4)

Wise Rebukes Are Better than Foolish Flattery (5)

The Laughter of a Fool Is Empty (6)

Oppression and Bribery Are the Tools of Fools (7)

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. What is the wisest thing anyone has ever said to you? What is one piece of wisdom you have now that you wish you'd gotten sooner? If you could leave one piece of wisdom behind to your kids, what would it be?
3. Do you prefer sorrow or laughter? Why? Are there any ways you've found sorrow to be better?
4. What is the happiest you have ever been? Was that in any way related to a prior trial?
5. What do you tend to think about when you don't have to think about anything? Why does your mind/heart go there?
6. When was the last time someone rebuked you? How did it feel? Did you make it easy or hard for them?
7. Do you know any good, edifying jokes?
8. What do you usually laugh at: Things that are more empty and immoral or substantial and righteous?
9. What in your life is your greatest temptation to ungodliness?
10. Have you ever been a part of a bribe? Offering or taking? Why? What happened?
11. What "fools tools" do you regularly make use of?
12. In what way/s did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

13. Memorize James 1:2-4.
14. Find someone to rejoice and weep with this week.
15. Pick one of the resolutions of Jonathan Edwards mentioned by Pastor Dave and spend some time praying about it.
16. Plug into a DG.
17. Ask an older, wiser person to "rebuke" you. Make it easy for them to do.
18. Read [Practicing Affirmation](#) by Sam Crabtree. Practice affirmation this week.
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 a God of laughter. Praise God that He weeps with those who weep. Praise God that He is all-wise, the Lord of life and death, holy, and that He is clear and true. Praise God that He is righteous, pure, and rational.
22. Confess. Confess any course joking or based laughing. Confess misplaced sorrow. Confess idolizing comfort. Confess valuing comfort above character. Confess pride and defensiveness. Confess an unwillingness to be rebuked by the wise. Confess foolishness. Confess contentment with shallowness. Confess oppression or indifference to it.
23. Thanksgiving. Thank God for His discipline and love. Thank God for His rightly placed laughter. Thank God for making your heart glad in Him. Thank God for sanctifying you and revealing your folly. Thank God for fighting for the oppressed.
24. Supplication. Ask God to help us rightly weep and laugh. Ask God to make us love wisdom and hate folly. Ask God to cause us to set our minds on things that matter. Ask God to give us hatred for bribery and oppression.