

Ecclesiastes Lesson 5 | Eccl. 7:27-29, 9:7-12 | 8/18/13

- Solomon's wisdom independent of God was not enough (Eccl. 7:23-25)
 - **Read Eccl. 7:23-25**
 - Solomon tried to be wise independently of God, but he realized that it was beyond him.
 - He had wisdom enough to discover the vanity of the world and that nothing in the world alone was fulfilling for his soul, but he realized that even with his wisdom he was not able to understand everything.
 - Solomon had set himself out to explore and seek wisdom in every way that he could, but as he says in verse 23 "it was beyond me"
 - This is much like what we saw in Job.
 - Job 11:7-8
 - "Can you fathom the depths of God or discover the limits of the Almighty? They are higher than the heavens—what can you know?"
- Solomon discovered the evil of the great sin that he was guilty of (Eccl. 7:26-28)
 - **Read Eccl. 7:26-28**
 - Solomon was a very wise man, but yet even he succumbed to the temptations of Satan.
 - Solomon laments to the sin that ensnared him the most that was the sin of his many women, 1000 to be exact.
 - This sin then lead to another as Solomon later in his life turned from God to worship false God's from his wives that he was not supposed to have.
 - Solomon's disobedience to God
 - 1 Kings 11:1-3
 - This particular sin of Solomon was disobedience to God by marrying the women that he was told not to because God knew they did not worship him the one true God, but false Gods and they would turn him away.
 - Solomon followed other God's
 - 1 Kings 11:4-6
 - So Solomon not only disobeyed God but he turned from him to worship the false God's of his wives.
 - God punishes Solomon because of his disobedience
 - 1 Kings 11:9-13
 - In hindsight Solomon obviously knew what he should have done, look at what we saw in Eccl. 5:1
 - Solomon realized his mistake, his disobedience and the results were not to his liking.
 - Solomon fully realized it was better to be obedient to God.
 - Eccl. 11:13
 - "When all has been heard, the conclusion of the matter is: fear God and keep His commands, because this is for all humanity."
 - How heavy this must have weighed on him as he found it "more bitter than death".
 - Wise Solomon may not have resisted the temptation that he succumbed too but he was wise enough to realize his mistake.

- We can succumb to the same temptations and have the same revelations as did Solomon.
 - For Solomon to reflect back on a sin that caused him great pain is something that we all have most likely encountered.
 - Having the wisdom from the Bible we are able to look at our lives both present and past and we can reflect on the wrong that we have done.
 - The temptations are difficult just as Solomon described his as being a trap and a net, so we all have our sins and temptations that do the same to us.
 - The sin baits us in promising pleasure, but it only leads to pain and suffering.
 - Proverbs 5:22
 - “A wicked man’s iniquities entrap him, he is entangled in the ropes of his own sin”
 - **Do you find it hard to remove yourself from being tangled in the ropes of your sins?**
- Solomon realized that with God one can escape sin. (Eccl. 7:26b)
 - Eccl. 7:26b
 - “The one who pleases God will escape her, but the sinner will be captured by her”
 - Those of us that escape our sin must realize that it is because of God and not our strength alone.
 - It’s is God’s mercy upon us that he helps us to overcome these sins and temptations.
 - We must be diligent to keep God’s commandments and to be obedient so he will deliver us from these evils.
 - The person that allows other sins into their life and the one that doesn’t lean on God’s strength will be taken.
 - A person who does not lean on God or care for God is much more susceptible to these evil traps because they do not have God.
 - The constant sinner is of course more susceptible to be taken.
 - Those in Christ that keep Christ at the forefront of their minds are much more resilient to turn from these traps.
 - God gives us a way out.
- Solomon realized in his sin that he was not able to find a true woman. (Eccl. 7:27-28)
 - ***Read Eccl. 7:27-28***
 - This is not a dig on women as it may sound, but that he was not able to find a true woman amongst them because of his disobedience.
 - He many more wives than God wanted him too.
 - And if we look again at 1 Kings 11:3 he had foreign wives that turned his heart from the Lord.
 - Solomon had disobeyed God and he had not found a true woman amongst all that he had.
- Solomon discovered that God made people upright, but they pursued their own plans. (Eccl. 7:29)
 - ***Read Eccl. 7:29***
 - God mad man upright beginning with Adam and Eve.
 - Genesis 1:27
 - “So God created man in His own image; He created him in the image of God; He created them male and female.”
 - When God created man he was upright and just and had not yet sinned. But the scheme of man led him to sin.
 - God didn’t create us for evil, he wants us to be upright and to be obedient to him.

- As it is with Adam and Eve all they had to do to live in paradise was to simply obey God, be obedient.
 - They chose not to so that led to their and our calamity.
 - OBEDIENCE is key
 - **We cannot get back that perfect world that God had given man in the Garden of Eden while we live on earth.**
 - **But we can do our best to be upright and to live in obedience to God.**
 - **We then have the hope that we will be perfectly upright once we are in Heaven.**
 - **Solomon realized from his own actions that people pursue their own plans and disobey God. Solomon at one point being very close to God still chose to disobey God and had his kingdom removed from his children. Why does this happen to Christians' today? We can be obedient and have a close relationship to God, we are blessed and things are going well. Then we make poor choices, we disobey God and then we have to suffer the consequences? Don't we KNOW what can happen when we disobey God?**
- Enjoy the pleasures that God has given you as they are blessings for an obedient life. (Eccl. 9:7-12)
 - **Read Eccl. 9:7-12**
 - Several of the things that Solomon has mentioned here he has previously stated was futile or meaningless under the sun. So these things by themselves will not fulfill you.
 - BUT for one who is living a life for God and is a Christian, this person understands the big picture.
 - This person knows that God has given us these pleasures to us and they are certainly blessings.
 - So the Christian knows he can and should enjoy the things that God provides for them.
 - We know that there is much sorrow in the world, there are trials and tribulations, but there is also joy and pleasure.
 - Enjoy the fruit of your labor but do this in obedience.
 - **Read Verse 7**
 - Solomon rightly says to enjoy our food and drink with pleasure and a cheerful heart.
 - Wine
 - Not a passage of scripture to use as a reason to get drunk every night.
 - Different time period where wine was better than the drinking water
 - Bible is very clear about the dangers of excessive drinking.
 - Galatians 5:19-21
 - “Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, idolatry,....drunkenness...and anything similar....those that practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.
 - Proverbs 20:1
 - “Wine is a mocker, beer is a brawler, and whoever staggers because of them is not wise.”

- Luke 12:19-20
 - “Then I’ll say to myself, “you have many goods stored up for many years. Take it easy, eat, drink, and enjoy yourself.” (sound familiar) But God said to him, You fool! This very night your life is demanded of you. And the things you have prepared—whose will they be?”
 - Similar but different, the Christian who is doing God’s work and being in God’s will can certainly enjoy all the blessings of God, but the fool who lives for his possessions and lives to eat drink and be merry is a fool.
 - We can and should enjoy what God gives us but we must be obedient and do the tasks that he has given us.
- **How do you balance the pleasures that God’s give us by not putting that “pleasure” above God?**
- God wants us to be joyful in what he has given us and we are to have a cheerful heart.
 - Acts 2:46
 - “Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple complex, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with a joyful and humble attitude, praising god and having favor with all the people. And every day the Lord added to those who were being saved.
 - This early church was generous and growing. They were enjoying the blessings of God.
 - Deuteronomy 28:47
 - “Because you didn’t serve the Lord you God with joy and a cheerful heart, even though you had an abundance of everything”.
 - God was telling the Israelites of the curses for disobedience and not serving the Lord even though he had provided.
 - It does come down to balance and to remember that an excess of anything can be bad.
 - Enjoy what God has given you but not extravagantly above or below, but perfect balance.
- We are to enjoy our marriage. (Eccl. 9:9)
 - **Read Eccl. 9:9**
 - God made it clear from the very beginning that it was not good for man to be alone and that he should have a wife.
 - **Even in the Garden of Eden which was paradise it wasn’t perfect until God made woman.**
 - Genesis 2:24
 - “This is why a man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife, and they become one flesh.”
 - A marriage between a man and a woman is a gift from God.
 - We are to cherish and love that relationship.
 - Ephesians 5:25,28
 - “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her”
 - “In the same way, husbands are to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.”
 - **If we love our wives as Christ loved the church it will be a very joyous marriage.**
- Whatever our hands find to do, do with all your strength. (Eccl. 9:10)
 - **Read Eccl. 9:10**
 - Lastly and most importantly we are to do the best we can with the work we have to do.
 - As Christians we know the work that we are called to do, we are to do God’s work.

- Let us take a look at the words of Jesus.
 - John 9:4
 - “We must do the works of Him who sent Me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work.”
 - We MUST do God’s work, while it is day while we are alive in this world we have a job to do.
 - We only have a little while here on this earth and we only get to do it once. We should constantly be looking for opportunities of doing good.
 - **We are called to God and are then commanded to preach the Gospel. We must be obedient and follow God’s will for our lives.**