



Adult and Teen Life Groups Conferencing Guide

SERMON DATE: 03/25/2018
DISCUSSION DATE: 04/08/2018
TEXT: ECCLESIASTES 7:15 - 7:29

I. FINISHING WELL (A GOOD NAME) REQUIRES HUMILITY.

A. Humility trusts God's Sovereign administration of justice, v.v. 15-18.

1. Why do we struggle to trust God's Sovereignty over our days of adversity?
2. In light of our struggle, what advice does Solomon have for us?

B. Humility values wisdom while maintaining faith-filled dependence, v.v. 19-24.

1. Wisdom's Strength.
2. Wisdom's Necessity.
3. Wisdom's Supply.

C. Humility lives for the pleasure of God not the approval of men, v.v. 25-29.



1. **Read Ecclesiastes 6:12.** What are the two questions here designed to make us consider?
2. **Read Ecclesiastes 7:1, 14.** What is the PRIZE worth pursuing with our lives? What does it mean to obtain a good name? Why do we struggle with the days of adversity? What is it about prosperity that we enjoy?
3. **Read Ecclesiastes 7:15-18.** Why does it bother us to see “the wicked man prolong his life in his wickedness?” What does his wickedness deserve? What does our wickedness deserve? Why do we long for God to give justice to others but remain long-suffering with us?
4. What do we expect to happen in our lives when we are living righteously? Was Job living a righteous life when he suffered great loss? What did his 3 friends tell him was his problem? Why do we readily adopt such thinking? What are some world religions that operate with that kind of approach to “god” or the “spirits” they worship?
5. Is Solomon suggesting that it is okay for us to sin in moderation? Is it possible for us to be “overly righteous?” Can we be so “heavenly minded that we are no earthly good?”
6. **Read Psalm 73:1-17.** Have you had the same struggle as Asaph? What delivered him from a wrong conclusion? How can we overcome our faulty views of justice and keep our hearts from being embittered?
7. **Read Ecclesiastes 7:19.** Why/how does wisdom provide such incredible strength? How do we demonstrate the value wisdom has to us in our daily lives? Why is wisdom the soil in which a righteous life grows?
8. **Read Proverbs 3:13; 8:11.** What must we believe about wisdom? How do we know if we believe it?
9. **Read Ecclesiastes 7:20-24.** Why is it a struggle to accept the conclusion of v. 20? What activity doe Solomon want us to avoid doing? What have we all been guilty of doing when we hear someone else speak badly about us? Why do we see the sins of others as worse than our own? Why do we find the sins of others so much faster than we see our own?
10. Since wisdom is beyond our ability to gain on our own, how do we pursue it? (see - James 1:5; Ecclesiastes 2:26)
11. **Read Ecclesiastes 7:25-29.** Who is the woman that Solomon is talking about (i.e. drawn from his own experience)? How does a lack of Wisdom due to sin destroy God’s gift of marriage? Who alone can escape the damage sin brings to human relationships?
12. Why are human relationships so messy and hurtful? How can we enjoy God’s gift of relationship with others?