



# THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES

CHASING THE WIND

Week 4

# WEEK 3 REVIEW

- Chapters 4 & 5 began a "survey of the human condition" that explores suffering, oppression, envy, work, loneliness, companionship, pride, position, and worship.
- Despite his cynicism, the Teacher proposes a balanced approach to life.
- Wisdom is a good pursuit. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and wise people listen to counsel and correction.
- Reverent humility is the proper posture when we enter into God's presence.

# ENJOYING LIFE

- Read Ecclesiastes 6:1-6. What evil does the teacher commonly see among men?
- Why might God not give some people the benefit of enjoying their wealth or their families?
- Who does the teacher say is better off than someone who cannot enjoy their life? Why?
- What application can we take from this?

# ENJOYING LIFE

- Read Ecclesiastes 6:7-12. What points does Qoheleth restate here?
- What does it mean in this context that "no one can contend with someone who is stronger"? (v.10)
- What does the teacher mean by "the more the words, the less the meaning"? (v.11) Do you agree with this assessment? How does this relate to prayer? (Matthew 6:7)

# ENJOYING LIFE

- "The rich man can eat only three meals a day, sleep on one bed at a time, and cannot live longer than the poor man. The rich man's life is but a shadow. There is no pocket in a shroud."  
- J. Vernon McGee

# WISDOM ONE-LINERS

- Read Ecclesiastes 7:1-6. What sticks out to you?
- Read Proverbs 22:1, Matthew 5:16, 1 Peter 2:12, 1 Timothy 3:2-7, and 1 Corinthians 15:33. What do these verses say about reputations? In what ways does a good reputation benefit a child of God?
- In what way can the day of one's death be better than the day of their birth?

# WISDOM ONE-LINERS

- How is a sad face good for the heart? (v. 3) When is sorrow better than laughter?
- In what ways can we benefit from a rebuke?
- Think of the sound of a brush fire – the "cackling of thorns." What does this tell us about fools?

# WISDOM ONE-LINERS

- Read Ecclesiastes 7:7-12. What problem is discussed in verse 7? How can bribery taint someone's thinking? Have you ever been bribed to do something? Have you ever bribed someone else to do something?
- How is the end of a matter better than its beginning? (v. 8) Is this always true?



# WISDOM ONE-LINERS

- How does being quick to anger make one foolish? (v. 9) Would you say you are patient, or quick-tempered? How does anger lead to sin? What can we do to control our anger?
- What mistake should we avoid according to verse 10? Why is such a question unwise? Have you ever found yourself lamenting the present and yearning for the past?
- What are some practical benefits of wisdom?

# WISDOM ONE-LINERS

- Read Ecclesiastes 7:13-22. What are some things that God has made crooked that we cannot straighten? What lesson can we learn from that?
- What does it mean to be "overrighteous"?  
(v.16) Can a person ever be too righteous or too wise?
- How can we grasp righteousness without letting go of foolishness? (v. 18)

# WISDOM ONE-LINERS

- What principle about righteousness is stated in verse 20? What can we infer from that?
- Define "curse" as used in verses 21-22. What do these verses say about seeking the praises of others as opposed to having a good reputation with others? Is there a connection between seeking a good reputation and seeking praise? Where is the distinction?

# WISDOM ONE-LINERS

- Read Ecclesiastes 7:23-29. What problem did the Teacher encounter when he pursued wisdom by his own willpower? How did he overcome this problem? (v. 23-25)
- How can we reconcile the fact that the Teacher professed to be wiser than many, yet wisdom eluded him?
- What can this teach us about wisdom and the limits of human intelligence?

# WISDOM ONE-LINERS

- What kind of woman is the Teacher talking about in verse 26? How does Solomon describe such a woman in Proverbs? (Proverbs 23:27, 25:24, 27:15)
- Why would the Teacher say this about women? Did he know any good women?
- What conclusion does the Teacher reach in verse 29? How does this conclusion relate to the doctrine of total depravity?