

WISDOM'S LESSONS AND LIMITS

ECCLESIASTES 6:10-7:29

- Let death TEACH you to live. 7:1-6

- Do not seek to escape reality through... 7:7-10
 - MONEY. 7:7
 - IMPATIENCE. 7:8
 - ANGER. 7:9
 - NOSTALGIA. 7:10

- Wisdom helps us NAVIGATE life, but wisdom has its LIMITS—so fear God. 7:11-18

- Wisdom shows us... 7:11-18
 - Our need for FORGIVENESS. 7:19-20
 - Our need to show GRACE to others. 7:21-22
 - Our own SMALLNESS. 7:23-24
 - The BITTERNESS of temptation. 7:25-29

FURTHER UP, FURTHER IN

1. Read the questions asked in Ecclesiastes 6:11. What are some ways this world answers these questions? What are the sources of this world's answers?
2. Read Ecclesiastes 7:1-6. Do you think people in our culture learn from death, or hide from death? Why? Have you ever been to a funeral that was instructive to you? Describe that experience. In your life, how has death taught you to live?
3. When you think about your death, do you have peace about it, or is it fearful to you? Why do you think this is? What passages from the Bible could be a comfort to you? (see John 5:24, 10:28; 1 John 4:16-18, 5:11-13; Rom 8:15-16, 8:31-39)
4. Read Ecclesiastes 7:7-10. Which of these four verses stands out to you most? Why? How are you tempted to escape reality instead of walking forward in faith?
5. Read Ecclesiastes 7:11-18. How does this passage describe the balance between the value and the limits of wisdom? What is the answer this passage gives in verse 18?
6. Read 7:16-18. What are the two ways of avoiding depending on God according to in this passage? In your life, which is a greater temptation? What are some passages that can help? (Isa 64:6; Eph 2:8-9; Tit 2:4-7; 1 Pet 1:5-8; Rev 2:4-5; 1 Tim 4:7-8)
7. Look over the final four pieces of wisdom found in the final point from verses 19-29. What stands out to you? Which of these is God calling you to live out this week? How will you do that in your life?

"I have come home at last! This is my real country! I belong here. This is the land I have been looking for all my life, though I never knew it till now. . . . Come further up, come further in!" — C.S. Lewis, The Last Battle

