

Leader Guide



Speaker: Mark Scott

Series: dysFunctional

Title: Functional Aging

Primary Texts: 2 Samuel 19:31-39, Ecclesiastes 12:1-8

Big Idea: Age well, no matter how old you are.

Sermon Outline

1. Introduction – The Reality of Aging

- Aging is unavoidable if Christ carries; the question is not if, but how.
- Ecclesiastes 12:1–8 describes the physical and emotional realities of aging.
- The call: remember your Creator and live wisely before the end comes.

2. The Example of Barzillai (2 Samuel 19:31–39)

- Barzillai, an 80-year-old man, supports King David during a time of crisis.
- He demonstrates loyalty, generosity, humility, and wisdom.
- His life shows that aging can still be purposeful and kingdom-focused.

3. Steward Your Resources for the Future

- Barzillai used his wealth to serve God's anointed king (2 Samuel 17:27–29).
- Scripture calls believers to provide for future generations (1 Timothy 5:8).
- Aging well includes intentional stewardship that blesses others.

4. Conduct an Honest Assessment of Your Season

- Barzillai acknowledges his limitations (2 Samuel 19:35).
- Aging requires wisdom to recognize changing abilities.
- This is not weakness, but maturity.

5. Strive Not to Be a Burden, But a Blessing

- Barzillai declines David's offer, recognizing his limitations.
- Christian living emphasizes service and humility (Philippians 2:5-11).
- Seek to contribute rather than demand to be served.

6. Promote the Next Generation

- Barzillai sends Chimham in his place (2 Samuel 19:37).
- Aging well includes mentoring and passing the baton (James 4:14).
- Invest in those who will carry the mission forward.

7. Christ-Centered Perspective on Aging

- Barzillai's story fits into the larger narrative of God's kingdom.
- Jesus, the greater Son of David, fulfills God's redemptive plan.
- Aging well means advancing the King and His kingdom.

8. Conclusion – Live Fully Until the End

- Aging is not irrelevance, but opportunity for faithfulness.
- Call: live intentionally, serve others, and advance God's kingdom.

HEART – "This Is Me"

1. How do you feel about aging right now?
2. Where is God shaping you in this season?
3. Are you open to change as you age?
4. Do you see your life as meaningful for God's Kingdom?
5. What attitudes toward aging need to change?
6. How is God calling you to trust Him more?

HEAD – "This Is What I Need to Think About"

1. What does Ecclesiastes 12 teach about aging?
2. What do we learn from Barzillai?
3. Why is stewardship important at every age?
4. What does it mean to accept limitations wisely?
5. Why is investing in others essential?
6. How does this point to Jesus as King?

HANDS – "This Is How I Need to Act"

1. Use one resource to bless someone this week.
2. Reflect on your current season and adjust accordingly.
3. Serve someone intentionally this week.
4. Invest in someone younger in the faith.
5. Write one way to advance God's Kingdom now.
6. Pray for wisdom to live faithfully at every age.