What The Wise Man Learned

Ken Chapman · Ecclesiastes 3:16–22

INTRODUCTION

- And the question is, how smart are you?
- We learn ourselves. We learn from our fellow man. But we learn from God.
- It would do us well to turn to the pages of a book like Ecclesiastes and let the wisest man who ever lived tell us what he learned.

1 There Is So Much Injustice in the World

Ecclesiastes 3:16–17; Ecclesiastes 9:11–12

- Moreover, I saw under the sun. In the place of judgment, wickedness was there. And in the place of righteousness, iniquity was there.
- Solomon says, I'm an old man. And you want to know what I've seen. Life ain't fair.
- The race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to the men of understanding, nor favor to men of skill.
- I said in my heart, God shall judge the righteous and the wicked.
- Solomon recognized that God will bring justice in his time.

2 Bad Things Often Happen to Good People

Ecclesiastes 7:15

- There is a just man who perishes in his righteousness, and there's a wicked man who prolongs his life in his wickedness.
- We need to come to the realization and maybe to the acceptance of the fact that many times bad things will happen to good people.
- Many times bad things will happen because you're a good person.
- Yea, all that live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

3 This Earthly Life Is Temporary

Ecclesiastes 9:13–18; 1 John 2:15–17

- Solomon says, I learned that this earthly life is temporary.
- Maybe it helps me to refocus and understand that this world is not my home.
- Wisdom is better than strength. Nevertheless, the poor man's wisdom is despised, his words are not heard.
- The world is passing away and the lust of it. But he who does the will of God abides forever.
- The child of God wants to live forever. But not here in this world.

4 In the Approach to This Life, Happiness Is Best

Ecclesiastes 3:22

- In the approach to this life, happiness is the best approach.
- There's nothing better than a man should rejoice in his own works, for that is his heritage.
- Life, even a life that's not perfect, is meant to be enjoyed, Solomon said.
- For most of us, happiness is a choice, and it's a choice that we need to be making.

THE CHALLENGE

And so I can choose a positive and happy approach to this life, knowing that it's not the only life that I will live.

MY NOTES