

Study Guide-Ecclesiastes 7:15-8:1

1. Read v.15. Have you seen this happen before? Share an example.
2. Read v.16-19. How does that coincide with the law, "Be holy as I am holy."(Lev. 11:45 & 1 Pet.1:16)? How do we get our holiness? (see 2 Cor. 5:21). What does it mean to strike a balance in our own striving?
3. Read v. 20-22. What about this passage can help us all stay humble?
4. Read v.23-29. Note that Solomon celebrated his first love in Songs of Solomon. Now he is struck with bitterness towards women. What happened to him? Is it true that we are prone to go "in search of many schemes (v.29)?"
5. Read Chapter 8:1. What will true wisdom that is applied to our lives do for us?

Application

Spend a few moments in silent prayer, thanking God for his love, his forgiveness and his righteousness. Next ask God for wisdom to avoid the pitfalls that come with our human nature.

Message Slides

Ecclesiastes 7:15-8:1

A. When Bad Things Happen to Good People (v.15)

15 In this meaningless life of mine I have seen both of these: the righteous perishing in their righteousness, and the wicked living long in their wickedness.

B. Striking a Balance (v.16-19)

16 Do not be overrighteous, neither be overwise— why destroy yourself?

17 Do not be overwicked, and do not be a fool— why die before your time?

18 It is good to grasp the one and not let go of the other. Whoever fears God will avoid all extremes.

19 Wisdom makes one wise person more powerful than ten rulers in a city.

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- 1. Stunned**
- 2. Relieved**
- 3. Watchful**
- 4. Practical**
- 5. Rewarding**

C. Staying Grounded (v.20-22)

20 Indeed, there is no one on earth who is righteous, no one who does what is right and never sins.

21 Do not pay attention to every word people say, or you may hear your servant cursing you—

22 for you know in your heart that many times you yourself have cursed others.

D. Wisdom by Self-Awareness (7:23-8:1)

1. Know the stupidity of wickedness (v.23-25)

23 All this I tested by wisdom and I said, "I am determined to be wise"— but this was beyond me.

24 Whatever exists is far off and most profound— who can discover it?

25 So I turned my mind to understand, to investigate and to search out wisdom and the scheme of things and to understand the stupidity of wickedness and the madness of folly.

D. Wisdom by Self-Awareness (7:23-8:1)

1. Know the stupidity of wickedness (v.23-25)

2. Know the bitterness sin causes (v.26-28)

26 I find more bitter than death the woman who is a snare, whose heart is a trap and whose hands are chains. The man who pleases God will escape her, but the sinner she will ensnare.

27 "Look," says the Teacher, "this is what I have discovered: "Adding one thing to another to discover the scheme of things—

28 while I was still searching but not finding— I found one upright man among a thousand, but not one upright woman among them all.

29 This only have I found: God created mankind upright, but they have gone in search of many schemes.”

D. Wisdom by Self-Awareness (7:23-8:1)

1. Know the stupidity of wickedness (v.23-25)
2. Know the bitterness sin causes (v.26-28)
3. Know the joy wisdom brings (8:1)

1 Who is like the wise? Who knows the explanation of things? A person’s wisdom brightens their face and changes its hard appearance.