

## Ecclesiastes 11:1-6 A life worth Living True North, Part 9

For ten Chapters in our study of the book of Eccl Solomon has been talking about the futility of life under the Sun – here on earth.

A) Life is Vanity, full of Vexation of Spirit, it is chasing the wind.

B) He talks about the cycle of the seasons & the weather – one generation comes and another goes - that is life

C) One generation comes along and thinks what they are doing is new – because they forgot about what the Generation before them did.

D) Clothes – New look – new style – so cool – you go to your scrap book or year book open up – picture of you in 8<sup>th</sup> grade

1) Same style – recycled –

Solomon tried it all – **Pleasure: Futility**  
**Building** – Futility  
Education / Wisdom – **Vanity**

One thing after another and he wasn't fulfilled.

A) Solomon was a man without limits – he was an absolute Monarch – no one to say NO TO HIM!

B) So he pursued everything with reckless abandonment – held nothing back – End – Still empty –

C) So Solomon is writing from that perspective – this autobiographical

Not in a backslidden – wiped out state. –

1) Drunk – Life stinks woe is me

D) Writing from the perspective of one looking back – here is what I learned –

1) Learn from my experience – don't repeat it

Come to Chapter 11 – Final exhortation – he is going to change his tune – here – basically say – Life is worth living.

A) This is where he has been heading – life is worth living - - Focus just needs to be different.

B) So he is going to paint a picture of the fulfilled life – much of what he says is a beautiful picture of Jesus – V. 1-6

C) Living in the past and living in the future is easy – living in the present is like threading a needle.

1) It is easy to look back and go I could of / I should of / I would of

D) Easy to look to the future and dream – I will – if – just waiting –

E) But the present can be a little more tricky – Living in the now – that can be hard. .

1) Solomon gives us four insights to consider v.1-6

## **#1 Instead of Protecting, Release Yourself!**

### **1 Cast your bread upon the waters,**

**A) When do you cast bread on the waters – feeding the ducks right?**

**B) That is the idea – idea of instead of hoarding release what you **have to benefit others.****

**C) Let it go -- push it away from ourselves – see what happens**

**The command comes with a promise. - **For you will find it after many days.****

**A) In other words when the bread is cast into the waters a life is released to others.**

**B) Others are benefited – there is something remarkable about – how God blesses those who give.**

1) In some way in some shape it is going to come back to you – it might be – you are helped in your time of need.

**C) It might mean a special blessing from God.**

1) God is a giver and he wants us to be givers as well.

**This is the opposite of our natural instincts – our natural instincts are to protect – **to horde** –to not make ourselves vulnerable.**

A) We get hurt and we put up walls – we don't trust –

**B) But think of the example of Jesus – he was hurt – his bride played the harlot – his children – went astray – his friends betrayed him**

**C) What did he do? He laid aside his rights and privilege as the son of God and – Released himself – Became a man –**

1) Made himself vulnerable to wicked humanity –

**D) In order to save. –**

1) He didn't play it safe – he didn't protect himself – he released himself

**E) Jesus calls us to a similar type of lifestyle – Pick up our Cross – deny our self – willing to die.**

1) Nothing pretty about that – Death – releasing – opposite of protecting – LIFE IS THE RESULT!

## **#2 Rather than hoarding, give and invest!**

### **2 Give a serving to seven, and also to eight,**

**In today's terms Diversify!**

**A) Be liberal in your investing – be generous in your giving –**

For you do not know what evil will be on the earth.

**B) Notice he repeats this phrase For you do not Know – three more times – twice v. 5 & in v. 6**

1) The idea is life is unpredictable –

**C) Here is the problem with a lot of people is they will make excuses to not do something!**

1) Some it is because they are Perfectionist – and if it can't be perfect – not going to do it.

D) **Others are timid** – too afraid to mess up and they feel inadequate.

1) Solomon's point is you don't know what the future holds – you can sit back – think – what if ....

E) Just do something and leave the results to God.

**#3 In place of drifting Pursue!**

3 If the clouds are full of rain,  
They empty themselves upon the earth;  
And if a tree falls to the south or the north,  
In the place where the tree falls, there it shall lie.  
4 He who observes the wind will not sow,  
And he who regards the clouds will not reap.

**Here Solomon seems to be describing people who spend their lives observing the obvious and noting the inevitable**

A) Instead of occupying ourselves with the obvious – we should pursue. There are certain things we cannot change.

B) We cannot change the weather, taxes, bills, final scores, the past, people's responses, and death.

**We can worry about them all we want to but we can't change them –**

A) Why worry if the tree falls to the north or the south,

B) Why worry about which way the wind of going to blow or if it is going to be rainy or sunny –

1) Worry will not change those things.

C) So instead of spending all our time worrying about what we can't change – lets invest our time and energy in what we can change.

D) Pursue put your time and energy into the things that you can affect - that you can change.

**There is a lot about God that I don't understand – I don't get**

A) But If I concern myself with what I do know – Pursue that. – Occupy me the rest of my life.

B) **I don't get gravity** – not about to jump off a cliff  
1) I don't get **air travel**- but I will get on an airplane fly 29 hrs to Uganda – not even worry about it.

C) Why do we feel like we need to figure everything out with God?

1) I am ok with the Mystery

D) Misnomer – Romans 8:28 All things work together for Good – to them who..... His Good!

Talking to Jeff Stewart today – nothing for his good – at least that he can see right now – lonely hurting

A) But it is working out for God's good – the amount of people who have been touched – staggering

B) Devos – Psalm 119:50 “This is my comfort in my affliction, for Your word has given me life.”

C) My comfort is in what I read in your word – that tells me about who you are – your heart

1) Much that I don't get and I don't like – honest  
But I will trust you.

#### #4 Instead of Doubting Trust.

5 As you do not know what is the way of the wind,  
Or how the bones grow in the womb of her who is with child,  
So you do not know the works of God who makes everything.

Solomon is living in the day before the Sonograms – can't see what is going on in the womb – boy / girl – all limbs –

But I know God is the one who causes the wind to blow in this direction or that

God is the one who makes everything.

6 In the morning sow your seed,

And in the evening do not withhold your hand;  
For you do not know which will prosper,  
Either this or that, Or whether both alike will be good.

As you are committing yourself to doing something – leave the results to God.

A) Sow in the morning – and in the evening don't withhold your hand

B) You are not sure which thing is going to prosper so just keep trying – keep knocking on doors.

C) I used to be under the impression that the way God leads you in things – is you pray – you wait for him to speak – then you move.

D) But I have found that is not the only way God does things

1) Sometimes he just says – walk – and I will lead you on the way

E) Eleazer – seeking a bride for Isaac - the Lord led him on the way – God didn't say – go to this well

Think of Paul – desire to go to Asia – No – forbidden by the HS – Keep knocking – what about here – no

A) Vision – go

B) Paul kept knocking – kept moving – kept seeking to see which door was going to open

1) Easier to steer a moving car -

**C) God's timing – Never intends for us to be IDLE**

**1) Active waiting -**

**So rap this up ! Solomon's advice!**

**#1 Instead of Protecting, release yourself!**

**JESUS EXAMPLE**

**#2 Rather than hoarding, give and invest!**

**GOD IS A GIVER**

**#3 In place of drifting Pursue!**

**ALL YOUR HEART**

**#4 Instead of doubting trust!**

**CROSS REMINDER – TRUSTWORTHY**

**Come to the table – tonight – Follow Jesus  
example – let's release ourselves**

**Let's come honestly before the one who has  
given so much and say – Lord show me how to  
invest –**

**Bring our Pursuits – Pursuing Jesus Seek first  
the kingdom .....righteousness**

**All those areas – don't understand that cause  
to question – lets tell the Lord tonight I  
reaffirm my trust in You -**