



ECCLESIASTES

Eccl. 11:1-6

Eccl. 11:1 Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days.

2 Give a portion to seven, and also to eight; for thou knowest not what evil shall be upon the earth.

3 If the clouds be full of rain, they empty *themselves* upon the earth: and if the tree fall toward the south, or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be.

4 He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap.

5 As thou knowest not what *is* the way of the spirit, *nor* how the bones *do grow* in the womb of her that is with child: even so thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all.

6 In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both *shall be* alike good.

This evening, we continue on a wonderful, spiritual journey through the Book of Ecclesiastes, known also as “The Preacher.”

I. THE PREACHER’S SUBJECT, 1:1-11

A. The Preacher, 1:1

B. The Problem, 1:2-3

C. The Process, 1:4-11

II. THE PREACHER’S SERMON, 1:12-10:20

A. Things He Had Sought, 1:12—2:26

B. Things He Had Seen, 3:1—6:12

C. Things He Had Studied, 7:1-10:20

1. Life's Frustrations, 7:1-29
2. Life's Fallacies, 8:1-17
3. Life's Finalities, 9:1-10
4. Life's Falseness, 9:11-10:15
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 - (a) An Immature Sovereign, 10:16a
 - (b) An Immoderate Senate, 10:16b
 - (2) A Key to Better Government, 10:17
 - (a) A Truly Royal Prince, 10:17a
 - (b) A Truly Responsible Prince, 10:17b

- b. Something to Wake Up To, 10:18-20
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 - (2) A Word About Life, 10:19-20
 - (a) As to One's Mirth, 10:19a
 - (b) As to One's Money, 10:19b
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III. THE PREACHER'S SUMMARY, 11:1-12:14

A. He Repeats His Complaints About Life, 11:1-10

1. Look Well to Life's Future Prospects, 11:1-6

a. Be Prudent, 11:1-2

(1) Sow Bountifully, 11:1

Eccl. 11:1 Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days.

Luke 4:4 And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.

New International Version

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone.'"

New American Standard Bible

And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE.'"

Holman Christian Standard Bible

But Jesus answered him, "It is written: Man must not live on bread alone."

King James Bible

And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, **but by every word of God.**

<https://biblehub.com/luke/4-4.htm>

(2) Sow Beneficially, 11:2

Eccl. 11:2 Give a portion to seven, and also to eight;
**for thou knowest not what evil shall be upon the
earth.**

❖ Diversify investments, realizing the uncertainty of
the results.

b. Be Practical, 11:3-4

(1) Things We Cannot Help, 11:3

(a) The Falling of Rain, 11:3a “If the clouds be full of rain, they empty *themselves* upon the earth...”

- Anticipate the obvious – clouds precede rain.

(b) The Falling of a Tree, 11:3b “...and if the tree fall toward the south, or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be.”

- Anticipate the objective – the tree falls in a direction and remains there in place of that direction.

- Too often in life, we cannot change things – “It is what it is.”

(2) Things We Can Help, 11:4

Eccl. 11:4 He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap.

- Sometimes, a farmer must “read the signs” – when to sow, or not to sow – reap or not reap.
- At other times, farmers sow or reap **REGARDLESS** of the signs.

c. Be Perceptive, 11:5

(1) God's Ways are Beyond Our Knowledge, 11:5a-b

(a) The Way of the Holy Spirit, 11:5a
“As thou knowest not what *is* the way of the spirit...”

- Mankind must face the limitations of human knowledge – so much is unknown.

(b) The Way of the Human Sexuality,
11:5b “...*nor* how the bones *do grow*
in the womb of her that is with
child...”

- Many do not know understand physical development in the womb – abortion, nor even how to identify a gender!

(2) God’s Works are Beyond Our Knowledge, 11:5c “...even so thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all.”

- Ignorance of the obvious magnifies the ignorance mankind knows of the Creator.

Isa. 40:28 Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, *that* the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? ***there is no searching of his understanding.***

Isa. 55:9 For ***as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.***

d. Be Provident, 11:6

(1) The Choice We Make, 11:6a “In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand...”

(2) The Choice We Take, 11:6b “...for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both *shall be* alike good.”

- Despite human ignorance about reality and especially about what is going to happen, one cannot remain inactive, but keep walking by faith – Prov. 3:5-7.

- Witness, by faith, leaving the results of sowing His seed, with HIM.

Isa. 55:10 For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:

11 **So shall my word be** that goeth forth out of my mouth: **it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.**

Conclusion

1 Cor. 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which **God hath prepared for them that love him.**

10 But **God hath revealed *them* unto us by his Spirit:** for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; **comparing spiritual things with spiritual.**

14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.

16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But **we have the mind of Christ.**