

Ecclesiastes 7:1-13 Discussion Questions

Outline of Pastor Mike's Sermon

Introduction

- The Hero's Journey (Monomyth)
 - 1949, Joseph Campbell wrote a book entitled *The Hero with a Thousand Faces* detailing the template of hero narratives.
 - Used as template for many notable authors including
 - Herman Melville
 - Charles Dickens
 - William Faulkner
 - Ernest Hemingway
 - Mark Twain
 - C.S. Lewis
 - J.R.R Tolkien
 - George Lucas
 - Illustration of the Hero's Journey
- Table of Contents
 - The Difficult Dwelling Place of Wisdom
 - The Longevity of the Wise

The Difficult Dwelling Place of Wisdom

- Ecclesiastes 7.1-7
- Proverbs 22.1
- The difficult places where wisdom is found/characterized
 - Death
 - The House of Mourning
 - Sorrow/Sadness
 - Rebuke
- The comfort of foolishness
 - The house of feasting
 - Laughter
 - The house of mirth
 - The song of fools

Longevity of the Wise

- Ecclesiastes 7.8-13

Implications

- Wisdom and foolishness are matters of the heart
- The Gospel draws us into places of discomfort
 - Matthew 7.24-27
- Humility, confession and repentance are marks of a heart that has been and continues to be transformed
 - Ecclesiastes 7.5-6
 - Philippians 3.17-4.1

Discussion Questions

Read Ecclesiastes 7:1-13

1. The first half of this passage emphasizes the fact that wisdom is found by considering the end of life and the things associated with it (mourning, sorrow, etc.).
 - a. What can we learn from facing the reality of death? Why is it such a good place to learn wisdom?
 - b. What has your experience with death (either facing it yourself or watching others be taken by it) taught you?
 - c. What does it really look to live with the end in mind?
 - d. How do we balance this with the making the most of each moment and opportunity?
2. Versus 8-9 explain that patience is a fruit of wisdom.
 - a. Why should wisdom lead to patience?
 - b. Where and how is God currently teaching you to live wisely with patience?
3. The wise value the rebuke of the wise (v. 5).
 - a. When was the last time you were rebuked and what did you learn from it?
 - b. When is it appropriate to rebuke a brother or sister?

4. In v. 6 there is a striking image where the Preacher compares the laughter of fools to the crackling of thorns that are being consumed by a fire, as if to say that the sound of their laughter is the very sound of their destruction. In other words, they are laughing while their sin is devouring them.

a. What are some kinds of sin that our culture tends to find amusing, fun, or insignificant?

b. Where are you tempted to approach your sin in too casual or frivolous a manner?

c. What would it look like to take this sin seriously and do what it takes to put it to death?

d. For those of you who are walking in victory over a past struggle, how did the Lord free you from it? What do you do in order to continue to walk in victory?