 **Lesson 3**

Is the “Grass Greener?” Part 1 ~ Wisdom Has its Limits

*Ecclesiastes 1:12-18*

We now come to the prologue of Ecclesiastes. This is when the Preacher gets personal. He tells us the story behind the book. Why did he write Ecclesiastes? What circumstances of life led him to write this? The sage Teacher, being in a unique position to explore life’s intricacies, shares with us the backstory of this book.

The Teacher embarks on a personal journey, delving into the question of whether the grass is truly greener on the other side of life’s experiences. This section unveils the inherent **limitations of human wisdom**.

**Consider Solomon’s experience (v. 12).**

* He had the position: Solomon was king.
* He had the power: Solomon was successful.
* He had the pleasure: Solomon had everything.
* He had the prestige: Solomon had respect.
* He had the perspective: Solomon had wisdom.

*Other Notes:*

**See Solomon’s experiment (vs. 13a, 17).**

* He committed to investigate the world (v. 13a).
* He committed to internalize its ways (v. 17).

*Other Notes:*

**Grow from Solomon’s exploration (vs. 13b-18).**

* Life is tough (vs. 13b-14).
  + It’s difficult because all people have afflictions.
  + It’s difficult because all accomplishments are *hevel*.
* Not everything can be fixed (v. 15a).
* Not all problems make sense (v. 15b).
* Experience and wisdom have their limitations (vs. 16-17).
  + The most experienced people still haven’t experienced everything.
  + The wisest people still don’t understand everything.
* Greater understanding brings greater heartache (v. 18).

*Other Notes:*

**Prayer**

**Scripture**: The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom:

And the knowledge of the holy is understanding.

Proverbs 9:10

**College Student of the Night: Ashlyn Moritz**

* Sophomore Political Science major at Bob Jones
* Prayer Requests:
  + Major upcoming projects that are overwhelming her
  + Internship possibilities

**Single Focus/Cross Impact Requests:**

* Cross Impact IUPUI, Purdue, Ball State, and UIndy
* Potential at IU, Marion, and Butler
* Single Focus (Connect, Grow, Serve)
* Sunday Soul-Winning Efforts

**Specific Requests:**

* Jack Elms, Kendall Elms, Jesiah Achenbach, and Max Garcia in military training/service
* Joseph LaPointe’s back and spirit
* Jessica’s Unsaved friend in Mormonism
* Sarah’s family’s salvation
* Aaron Bott and family- Soldier in Kuwait (Joe Forti’s friend)
* Ian’s unsaved family
* Julia as she lost her baby and is recovering from it all (Hau’s friend and co-worker).
* James as he recovers from his diabetic episode (Hau’s friend).
* Elizabeth’s coworker who is recovering from surgery and needs to have strong recovery.

**Announcements:**

* February 16-17- NBA Allstar Weekend Hangout
* July 19-21- Kenosha Missions Trip Signup







**Order of Service for tonight:**

* **Opening Game**:  True or False- Foods and Animals
* **Announcements**:
* **Opener**:
* **Songs**:
  + Be Thou My Vision (page 139)
  + Behold our God (page 138)
* **Prayer**:
* **Message**: Pastor Andy