 **Lesson 12**

“Seeing Life for What It Is”

*Ecclesiastes 7:15-29*

In tonight's passage, we are confronted with the idea of facing life for what it truly is. Sometimes, the truth can be unsettling, but it's crucial for us to have an accurate understanding of situations, even if it challenges our preconceived notions. Have you ever jumped into a conversation where you thought they were talking about one thing, but they were actually talking about something completely different? Have you ever seen someone hold a grudge when the other person has no clue why? It’s better to know about these things then to be left in the dark.

Solomon is giving us advice based on all of his mistakes. At first glance, some of the things he says in this passage might seem shocking! His strong statements will require us to compare and contrast different scriptures and wrestle through the truth of what he’s saying. Through it all, we’ll learn to see life for what it is and **embrace life realistically.**

**Maintain balance in your life (7:15-18).**

* Life isn't always fair (v. 15).
* Righteousness isn't a guarantee (v. 16)
* Foolishness is dangerous (v. 17).
* Fearing God brings balance (v. 18).

*Other Notes:*

**Take some wise advice (7:19-22).**

* In leadership, prioritize wisdom over numbers (v. 19).
* In life, acknowledge imperfection (v. 20).
* In listening, practice discernment and reasonableness (vs. 21-22).

*Other Notes:*

**Recognize the limits of your understanding (vs. 23-25).**

* Human wisdom has its limitations (v. 23).
* Not all knowledge is attainable (v. 24).
* The bigger picture isn't always clear (v. 25).

*Other Notes:*

**Accept the sinfulness of mankind (vs. 26-29).**

* Seduction is dangerous (v. 26).
* Integrity is rare (vs. 27-28).
* Corruption is everywhere (v. 29).

*Other Notes:*

**Prayer**

**Scripture**: And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that *there is* none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, **one that feareth God**, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause.

Job 2:3

**College Student of the Night: Landon Byrd**

* Sophomore at PCC
* Prayer Requests:
  + Academics

**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
* James as he recovers from his diabetic episode and financial implications (Hau’s friend)
* Karen’s (Elizabeth’s coworker) continued complications from her surgery months ago
* Jessi Gold’s search for an internship.
* Pastor Jonah Scott (Andy’s friend in WI) still fighting the infection that caused sepsis. Lots of ups and downs right now.

**Announcements:**

* Beef and Boards- April 12 (3 slots left; meet at church at 5:30pm)



**Order of Service for tonight:**

* **Opening Game**:
* **Announcements**:
* **Opener**: Andy
* **Songs**:
  + Rejoice in the Lord (on screen)
  + Worthy of Worship- p. 135
* **Prayer**:
* **Message**: Pastor Andy