 **Lesson 7**

“You’ve Got a Friend in Me”

*Ecclesiastes 3:16-4:16*

How can we make the most of our lives? The Preacher offers wisdom on living well, even when life gets messy. In tonight’s passage, we’ll tackle with the harsh realities of life’s injustices – oppression, greed, and loneliness. Yet, there’s a glimmer of hope in the importance of meaningful work, trusting God’s justice, and nurturing deep friendships. Despite life’s struggles, there’s still so much to cherish in our efforts, faith, and friendships.

**Grasp what is better when injustice occurs (3:16-22).**

* The courts are corrupted (v. 16).
* God’s judgment is timely (v. 17).
* God’s testing is purposeful (vs. 18-21).
* Man’s response is to enjoy (v. 22).

**It’s better to enjoy life.**

*Other Notes:*

**Grasp what is better when oppression occurs (4:1-3).**

* The oppressed are comfortless (v. 1).
* The dead are comforted (vs. 2-3).

**It’s better to not exist.**

*Other Notes:*

**Grasp what is better during the rat race (4:4-6)**

* Work is motivated by envy.
* Fools become lazy.
* Contentment is better than being relentless.

**It’s better to be content.**

*Other Notes:*

**Grasp what is better in your work (4:7-8)**

* Workers should value successors (v. 8a).
* Workers overvalue money (v. 8b).

**It’s better to have successors.**

*Other Notes:*

**Grasp what is better in your friendships (4:9-12)**

* Friendships is more productive.
* Friendship is more supportive.
* Friendship is more helpful.
* Friendship is more durable.

**It’s better to have friends.**

*Other Notes:*

**Grasp what is better with passing popularity (4:13-16)**

* Experienced leaders get isolated (v. 13).
* New leaders get popular (vs. 14-15).
* All leaders get replaced (v. 16).

**It’s better to stay connected.**

*Other Notes:*

**Prayer**

**Scripture**: Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.

Proverbs 27:17

**College Student of the Night: Jessi Gold**

* Grad Student at IUPUI
* Prayer Requests:
  + Internships
  + Classes
  + Prayer Life

**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.
* Ava Montgomery as she recovers from surgery and infection.

**Announcements:**

* March 12- Top Golf- *details coming soon*
* July 19-21- Kenosha Missions Trip Signup

**Order of Service for tonight:**

* **Opening Game**: President or Resident
* **Announcements**:
* **Songs**:
  + I Love the Church (page 62)
  + O How Good it Is (on screen)
* **Message**: Pastor Andy
* **Prayer**: