

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 02 June 2013..... Job 01-02..... Is This Really Happening to Me?
- 2) 09 June..... Job 03-14..... Was It My Fault?
- 3) 16 June..... Job 15-21..... Who Said Life Would Be Fair?
- 4) 23 June..... Job 22-28..... Whom Can I Trust?
- 5) 30 June..... Job 29-31..... What Can I Do Now?
- 6) 07 July..... Job 32-37..... Am I On The Right Path?
- 7) 14 July..... Job 38-42..... What Am I Supposed to Learn?
- 8) 21 July..... Ecclesiastes 01-02..... Can I Find Meaning?
- 9) 28 July..... Ecclesiastes 03-05..... Why Do I Feel Empty?
- 10) 04 August..... Ecclesiastes 05-06..... Am I Headed For Failure?
- 11) 11 August..... Ecclesiastes 07-08..... Can I Keep On Going?
- 12) 18 August..... Ecclesiastes 09-10..... Is There Any Hope?
- 13) 25 August..... Ecclesiastes 11-12..... What is the Answer?

INTRODUCTION

- Twice in chapters 7 and 8 Solomon highlights the disparity of life – the wicked are blessed and the righteous are cursed at times – YET, the righteous can still rejoice because God will work things out for the benefit of the righteous

Passage	Comments
Ecc 7:1-14	<p><b>Exposure to More Words of Wisdom</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v1a. How important is our reputation? How long does it take to repair a bad reputation?</li> <li>• v1b. From an earthly perspective the day of one's death may not be better than the day of one's birth, BUT discerning this passage with the previous phrase regarding one's reputation, the <b>Message</b> Bible nails it: "Your death date tells more than your birth date"</li> <li>• v2. What can be learned from attending a funeral?                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Life is fleeting, so act accordingly</li> <li>2. If you want to be spoken well of, act accordingly</li> <li>3. _____</li> </ol> </li> <li>• vv3-4. What do the wise learn from times of sorrow?</li> <li>• v9. "Anger resides in the heart of fools" – But isn't anger a God-given emotion? When is it bad?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Proverbs 19:19 "...if you rescue [an angry person], you will only have to do it again" (fools don't learn)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• v10. What are we missing when we wish for the return of the "good 'ol days"? Theoretically, from an earthly perspective, we should build on the success of the previous generation, and make life better for the next, BUT spiritually, we often slip into moral decline</li> <li>• v14. "In the day of prosperity be happy, But in the day of adversity consider — God has made the one as well as the other so that man will not discover anything that will be after him." – How should we take this passage?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Sunshine doesn't last, so prepare for rainy days</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	7:15-29

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>NIV</b> says "the man who fears God will avoid extremes"</li> <li>• The <b>Message</b> Bible seems to capture the passage well: "It's best to stay in touch with both sides of an issue. A person who fears God deals responsibly with all of reality, not just a piece of it."</li> <li>• v20. Indeed, there is not a righteous man on earth who continually does good and who never sins. ....Rom 3:23</li> </ul>
8:1-17	<p><b>Facing Inequities in Life</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v5. "He who keeps a royal command experiences no trouble, for a wise heart knows the proper time and procedure" – Application: Those who obey the speed limit don't fear the police, but if a semi loses its brakes and is fast approaching, it may be wise to speed up to avoid a wreck – something worse than a ticket</li> <li>• v6. Again, the <b>Message</b> seemed to render this well: "Yes, there's a right time and way for everything, even though, unfortunately, we miss it for the most part."</li> <li>• v9. Again, the <b>Message</b> rendering provides a decent perspective: "...As long as men and women have the power to hurt each other, this is the way it is."</li> <li>• v11. "Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed quickly, therefore the hearts of the sons of men among them are given fully to do evil" – How true this is in our day when justice takes decades to deliver</li> <li>• v12. "Although a sinner does evil a 100 times and may lengthen his life, still I know it will be well for those who fear God, who fear Him openly." – Now that's FAITH</li> <li>• v14. "...there are righteous men to whom it happens according to the deeds of the wicked. On the other hand, there are evil men to whom it happens according to the deeds of the righteous." – For the 2<sup>nd</sup> time, Solomon shows the disparity of living in a sinful world</li> </ul>

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- Since bad circumstances do not negate God's sovereignty, We can still trust Him as we trudge through this imperfect world

**NEXT WEEK: Ecclesiastes 9-10.** Solomon hits us with more harsh realities of life: Time and chance rules; one fate for all; one sinner destroys much good; foolishness is weightier than wisdom; some get hurt and others die on the job; and money is the answer to everything.



Life isn't fair...good people suffer, cruel people get away with it – So that's the last time we volunteer for the nursery