

P.M. OUTLINE
10/17/2021

YOU SOW & YOU REAP

(Ecclesiastes 11:1 - 10)

INTRODUCTION - Do good and be charitable though the results are uncertain.
Enjoy every day, but know that a day of reckoning is coming.

1. (v1-6) IN CHARITY

1) (v1) "Cast your bread upon the waters"

"Cast your bread" - be charitable with what you have, whether much or little.
(2 Corinthians 8:12; Ephesians 4:28; 1 Timothy 6:17-19)

"Upon the waters" - be charitable in many places

Phrase: Don't put all your eggs in one basket.

(Galatians 6:10) "... let us do good to all ..."

(v2) "Give a serving to 7, and also to 8" - opportunities abound.

(v1) "For you will find it after many days" - time-line is not given.

(Luke 6:38) "Give, and it will be given to you, good measure ..."

Perhaps the return is a good feeling or the return is in eternity.

2) (v2-6) Tells "Why?" we should be charitable throughout life.

Solomon says 4 times **"For you do not know ..."**

1. (v2) "For you do not know what evil will be on earth"

(v3) "If the clouds are full of rain, empty themselves on the earth"

Yes, sometimes there will be good and gracious results of our charity.

Rain benefits all, the just and unjust, and like rain, I cannot determine when or where the results of my charity will fall.

(v3) "If a tree falls to the south or the north" - some will not be givers because they do not know where it goes, so do nothing.

"In the place where the tree falls, there it shall be" - just give.

Yes, be a good steward, but don't stop giving because you cannot go places, cannot do what others are doing, or are not sure of how the charity will end up.

(v4) "He who observes the wind will not sow, and he who regards the clouds will not reap".

If you wait till the weather is right before you sow or do charity, you won't sow, and you won't reap.

If you don't want to do charity, any excuse will do.

2. (v5) "As you do not know what is the way of the wind or how the bones grow in the womb of her who is with child"

That's right, I do not know the wind's starting or ending point and

I don't know the mystery of life in the womb, so

I don't know how my charity grows or where it will end up.

3. (v5) "So you do not know the works of God who makes everything"

I don't know how God will bless my charity in my life or in the one I helped.
(Deuteronomy 29:29) "The secret things belong to the Lord our God ... "

4. (v6) "In the morning sow ... in the evening ... for you do not know which will prosper, either this or that, or whether both alike will be good"

(Galatians 6:9) "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart."

2. (v7-8) IN "LIVING MANY YEARS"

"The light is sweet" - we see the sunrise, and we've lived to see another day.

"A man lives many years, rejoices in them all" - precious memories.
(Psalm 90:10) "The days of our lives are three score and ten ... "

"Yet, let him remember the days of darkness, for they be many"

(Job 14:1-2) "Man who is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble ... "
Yes, I remember, and I remember the lessons of sowing and reaping.

3. (v9-10) IN "DAYS OF OUR YOUTH"

1) "Rejoice"

"Let your heart cheer you"

"Walk in the ways of your heart" - light-hearted and unrestrained.

"And in the sight of your eyes" - I'm doing my thing; be festive.

2) "But know that" - be certain of this; take this to heart; understand.

"For all these God will bring you into judgment"

(Acts 17:30-31; Romans 2:2-3)

"Therefore" - there's a right response to make

"Remove sorrow from your heart" - (Psalm 119:9-11)

"And put away evil from your flesh" - stop the wrong, do the right.

CLOSE: