

P.M. OUTLINE
9/26/2021

LESSONS FROM A FUNERAL

(Ecclesiastes 9:1 – 18)

INTRODUCTION - Solomon has repeatedly said that if you live your life “under the sun” without God, you have just lived your life for here; so, learn these life-lessons from a funeral.

1. (v1-2) YES, YOU WILL DIE, TOO

- (v2) “One event happens to the righteous and the wicked”
Old proverb: “When the chess game is over, the pawns, the rooks, the kings, the queens, all go back into the same box” See (Hebrews 9:27)

2. (v3-10) LESSONS FROM A FUNERAL

(Ecclesiastes 7:2) “Better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting, for that is the end of all men, **and the living will take it to heart.**”

- 1) **Don't deny it:** (v3) “... and after that they go to the dead”
- 2) **While you live there is hope:** (v4-6) “a living dog is better than a dead lion ... “ (Romans 5:2) “... rejoice in hope ... “ (v5) “hope does not disappoint ... “
- 3) **Enjoy meal-time:** (v7) “Go, eat your bread with joy, and drink your wine with a merry heart ... “
In these days of fast-food, be sure to make time for “slow-food.”
Come to the dinner table with a glad heart, celebrate, make it meal-time.
- 4) **Stop, smell the roses:** (v8) “Let your garments always be white, and let your head lack no oil” - celebrate each day.
(Psalm 118:24) “This is the day the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it”
- 5) **Keep adding relish on your marriage:** (v9) “Live joyfully with the wife whom you love” (Deut. 24:5) law of Moses provided a happy start for the newly wedded.
- 6) **Give your best to your work:** (v10) “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might; for there is no work ... in the grave where you are going”
Note that the text does not speak to the finished product, but to the effort.
“Triumph” is “try” with a little “umph” behind it.

3. (v11-12) THERE'S AN “IF” IN THE MIDDLE OF LIFE

Solomon tells us again that life is not fair; that the best person doesn't always win; and that you may do your best and come in last.
“time and chance happens to all of them” and “it falls suddenly”

4. (v13-18) THE SUPERIORITY OF WISDOM

- 1) (v15) “a poor wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city”
- 2) (v17) “Words of the wise, spoken quietly, should be heard” and (Proverbs 15:1-2)
- 3) (v18) “Wisdom is better than weapons of war ... “
- 4) (v18) “... but one sinner destroys much good.”