

The Happiness Code

Week 12 – Remedy for Vanities
(part 2)

Ecclesiastes 7:1-29



Week #12: Level Set

Ecc 6:12 For who knoweth what is good for man in this life, all the days of his vain life which he spendeth as a shadow?

- Wisdom for overcoming the vanity of life under the sun – Ecc 7:1-6.
- Wisdom for dealing with oppressions and injustices – Ecc 7:7-10.
- Wisdom for enjoying an inheritance – Ecc 7:11-12.
- Wisdom for handling evil days – Ecc 7:13-14.
- Wisdom for living out a life grant – Ecc 7:15-18.
- Wisdom for coping with emotional injury – Ecc 7:19-22.
- Wisdom for avoiding sinful temptations – Ecc 7:23-29.

WISDOM for dealing with oppressions and injustices

Ecc 7:7 Surely oppression maketh a wise man mad; and a gift destroyeth the heart. (8) Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.



#1 Check our patience

- The beginning of a thing is just that—the beginning.
 - Don't presume to know the outcome of an event that is still in motion.
- When living through oppression, be patient, trust God, and have confidence that He cares and that His truth will prevail in the end, and wickedness will cease.
- **Psalms 37:34 Wait on the LORD, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it. (35) I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree. (36) Yet he passed away, and, lo, he was not: yea, I sought him, but he could not be found.**

WISDOM for dealing with oppressions and injustices

Ecc 7:9 Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger resteth in the bosom of fools.

#2 Check our anger

- Not to say we cannot be angry when we are oppressed, but we should not be quick to anger.
- James 1:19 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: (20) For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.



WISDOM for dealing with oppressions and injustices

Ecc 7:10 Say not thou, What is the cause that the former days were better than these? for thou dost not enquire wisely concerning this.



#3 Check our complaints

- There is a time and season for everything.
 - In the season of suffering, do not to inquire why life was better in the good old days.
 - *Exodus 16:3 And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger.*

WISDOM for dealing with oppressions and injustices

1. Check our patience.
2. Check our anger.
3. Check our complaint.

1. Lose our cool.
2. Lose our control.
3. Lose our wisdom.

WISDOM for enjoying an inheritance

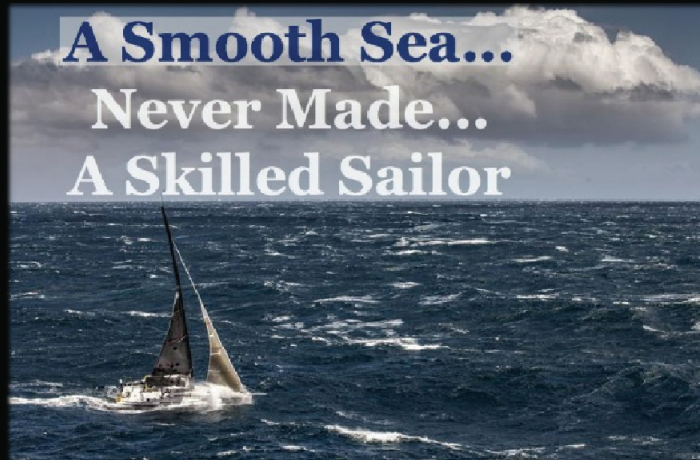
Ecc 7:11 Wisdom is good with an inheritance: and by it there is profit to them that see the sun. (12) For wisdom is a defence, and money is a defence: but the excellency of knowledge is, that wisdom giveth life to them that have it.



- Wisdom is necessary to the right managing of and enjoying an inheritance.
- Wisdom + inheritance (riches) = great advantage.
- Wisdom is a defense: protects you from getting hurt by riches.
- Money is a defense: **Pr 18:11 The rich man's wealth is his strong city, and as an high wall in his own conceit.**
- The life-giving wisdom of God, personified in Jesus Christ, delivers a person from the wrath of God.
Proverbs 11:4 Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death.

WISDOM for handling evil days

Ecc 7:13 **Consider** the work of God: for who can make that straight, which he hath made crooked? (14) In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity **consider**: God also hath set the one over against the other, to the end that man should find nothing after him.



- The key is to CONSIDER.
 - Consider the immutability of God's works.
- In the day of prosperity, be thankful, enjoy it, and serve the Lord with joyfulness and gladness of heart for His abundant provision.
- In the day of adversity, be thankful still and regard it as the work of God. Do not waver from serving the Lord.
Ecc 3:11a He hath made every thing beautiful in his time.
- **1Peter 4:12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: (13) But rejoice,...**

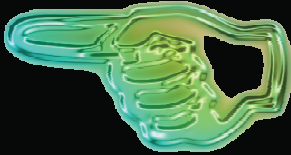
WISDOM for living out a life grant

Ecc 7:15 All things have I seen in the days of my vanity: there is a just man that perisheth in his righteousness, and there is a wicked man that longeth his life in his wickedness.

- Wisdom to live out a life grant and not die prematurely because of foolish actions.
- “There is a just man that perisheth in his righteousness”
 - Ecc 7:16 Be not righteous over much; neither make thyself over wise: why shouldest thou destroy thyself?
- “There is a wicked man that longeth his life in his wickedness”
 - Ecc 7:17 Be not over much wicked, neither be thou foolish: why shouldest thou die before thy time?
 - 1John 5:16b There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.

WISDOM for living out a life grant

Ecc 7:18 It is good that thou shouldest take hold of this; yea, also from this withdraw not thine hand: for he that feareth God shall come forth of them all.

- The key to living out our life grant:
 - Wisdom keeps us from getting hurt by extreme, irrational, and foolish behaviors and practices that are “righteous over much,” “over wise,” and “over much wicked.”
 - Where does one find wisdom? Job 28:12-28 
- The fear of the Lord is the wisdom that enables individuals to escape the aforementioned extremes.

Isaiah 33:6 And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation: the fear of the LORD is his treasure.

WISDOM for coping with emotional injury

Ecc 7:19 Wisdom strengtheneth the wise more than ten mighty men which are in the city. (20) For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not. (21) Also take no heed unto all words that are spoken; lest thou hear thy servant curse thee: (22) For oftentimes also thine own heart knoweth that thou thyself likewise hast cursed others.



- Wisdom strengthens us to forgive and teaches us not to expect flawlessness in people.
Pr 21:22 A wise man scaleth the city of the mighty, and casteth down the strength of the confidence thereof.
Pr 24:5 A wise man is strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength.
- Wisdom teaches us to pay no attention to the sentiments of the people who work closely with us.
- It is better to be strengthened by wisdom than the flesh, because we fight our demons daily, and the battle is psychological, spiritual, and emotional in nature.
Eph 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

WISDOM for overcoming sinful temptations

Ecc 7:23 All this have I proved by wisdom: I said, I will be wise; but it was far from me. (24) That which is far off, and exceeding deep, who can find it out? (25) I applied mine heart to know, and to search, and to seek out wisdom, and the reason of things, and to know the wickedness of folly, even of foolishness and madness: (26) And I find more bitter than death the woman, whose heart is snares and nets, and her hands as bands: whoso pleaseth God shall escape from her; but the sinner shall be taken by her.

- As wise as Solomon was, there was knowledge so far and deep beyond his reach and comprehension.
Job 11:7 Canst thou by searching find out God? canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection?
Romans 11:33 O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!
- What Solomon was able to achieve with his wisdom and pricey experience was to unveil the disguise of vanity and to prove that this world has nothing to make a person happy.
- Of all his sinful follies, there was one in particular that got him good... more bitter than death—the marrying of ungodly women.

WISDOM for overcoming sinful temptations

Ecc 7:27 Behold, this have I found, saith the preacher, counting one by one, to find out the account: (28) Which yet my soul seeketh, but I find not: one man among a thousand have I found; but a woman among all those have I not found. (29) Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions.

- The sin, besides being “more bitter than death,” was also dissatisfying.
 - Pleasurable to the flesh, but not what his soul longed for—a virtuous and upright person.
- A virtuous woman doesn’t exist among the ungodly ladies—expressed idiomatically...
Proverbs 31:10 Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.
- The reason is that God made “man” (Adam) upright, but since his fall, “they” (Adam and his offspring) invented all kinds of contrarian ways for righteousness, wisdom, and happiness.
Proverbs 18:1 Through desire a man, having separated himself, seeketh and intermeddleth with all wisdom.

You have been illuminated to these truths:

- WISDOM for dealing with oppressions and injustices:
 - Check our patience – Ecc 7:7-8
 - Check our anger – Ecc 7:9
 - Check our complaints – Ecc 7:10
- WISDOM for enjoying an inheritance – Ecc 7:11-12
 - Wisdom + Inheritance = profit. It is good to be alive when wisdom is paired with riches.
- WISDOM for handling evil days – Ecc 7:13-14
 - The key word is “consider”.
- WISDOM for living out a life grant – Ecc 7:15-18
 - The fear of the Lord is the wisdom that enables individuals to escape extremes and live out their life grant.
- WISDOM for coping with emotional injury – Ecc 7:19-22
 - Wisdom strengthens us to forgive and teaches us not to expect flawlessness in people.
- WISDOM for avoiding sinful temptations – Ecc 7:23-29
 - Only those who please God will escape snares, nets, and bands (SNB).
 - SNBs are “more bitter than death.”
- Please submit your questions and feedback to TheHappinessCode@yahoo.com