

Remember You Are Rich – Ecclesiastes 11:1-6

We all have resources – finances, time, capacity, skills, etc. – we are stewarding. The way we steward those things is shaped deeply by what we believe to be true and good. By nature we do not do this well. We need God's word to tell us what is true and what is worth investing in. Ecclesiastes 11:1-6...

- 1 *Cast your bread upon the waters,
for you will find it after many days.*
- 2 *Give a portion to seven, or even to eight,
for you know not what disaster may happen on earth.*
- 3 *If the clouds are full of rain,
they empty themselves on the earth,
and if a tree falls to the south or to the north,
in the place where the tree falls, there it will lie.*
- 4 *He who observes the wind will not sow,
and he who regards the clouds will not reap.*

5 *As you do not know the way the spirit comes to the bones in the womb of a woman with child, so you do not know the work of God who makes everything.*

6 *In the morning sow your seed, and at evening withhold not your hand, for you do not know which will prosper, this or that, or whether both alike will be good.*

Let's start by thinking about the world "under the sun". Looking at what we can see, as the teacher of Ecclesiastes did:

- 1) **What are some things about this world here and now that touch how we see our resources? What reactions does do these realities prompt in us?**
- 2) **How do the things interact with own hearts/nature? What is our status, and how does that shape how we think about our resources?**

Taken together, all of this shows us to be poor and needy with no promise of being safe or having enough.

- 3) **What kind of "stewardship" does this perspective going naturally lead to?**
- 4) **How do see a "poverty mindset" show up in your own handling of your resources?**
- 5) **How does this line up with the wisdom given in our passage?**

The wisdom in Ecclesiastes runs counter to how we naturally relate to what we have. So even if it is, it doesn't provide much fuel to live the life that it calls us to. It works like the law in this case: it tells us what is right but does not provide the power to do it. For that we need the gospel.

- 6) **What changes when is God revealed in the person and work of Jesus? How does it change the math of how we understand everything? Who are we and what do we have in him?**
- 7) **Spend some talking through what it would look like to handle our resources like we are rich in Christ.**
- 8) **What does this mean for the life of our church?**

PRAYER

Pray that we would have deeper understand of all we have in Christ and that the way we handle what we've been given would reflect that.