

Ecclesiastes 11:1-6 ^{bb}“Do Something!”^{aa}

Closing out the difference between a fool and a wise man Solomon described a fool as one who is not gracious with his words.

The fool speaks foolishness, his talk *is* raving madness.

The fool is one with too many words, Plato said, “Wise men speak because they have something to say; fools because they have to say something.”

The fool has too little sense, **TOO EARLY PARTYING,** and **too late getting to work.** **And as Mr T. famously said, “I pity the Fool!”**

Solomon... the preacher gives us a 12 chapter sermon called Ecclesiastes. “Is Life Worth Living?” That is the question? After experimenting and investigating “life under the sun,” life without God; life without eternity in mind... he initially concluded, **“No, life is not worth living!”** He gave four arguments to support his conclusion:

- **THE MONOTONY OF LIFE,**
- **THE VANITY OF WISDOM,**
- **THE FUTILITY OF WEALTH, AND**
- **THE CERTAINTY OF DEATH.**

Being a wise man, Solomon then reviewed his arguments and this time brought God into the picture. **God is the difference that changes everything!** Life without God, nothing matters... life with God, **“EVERYTHING MATTERS”.**

He realized that life was not monotonous but filled with challenging situations from God, each in its own time and each for its own purpose. He also learned that wealth could be enjoyed and employed to the glory of God.

Though man’s wisdom couldn’t explain everything, Solomon concluded that it was better to follow God’s wisdom than to practice man’s folly. As for the certainty of death, there is no way to escape it; and it ought to motivate us to enjoy life now and make the most of the opportunities God gives us.

In Ecclesiastes 11 Solomon tells us to live boldly, not letting the uncertainties of life hold us back from taking risks by faith for the glory of God. The better part of spiritual wisdom is **not caution but COURAGE** through Christ. He really

challenges us to **Do Something!**⁹⁹ **PRAY**

Chapter 11 verse 1... Cast your bread upon the waters, For you will find it after many days. *I see it in my minds eye... loaves of white wonder bread floating down the river... soggy, nasty, uneatable. What? Man the Bible is weird. As you can well imagine this is not what Solomon is saying... So what does he mean?*

One interpretation is that if we are generous with others when they are in need, eventually we ourselves will get help in time of trouble. Some commentators draw a comparison to an ancient **Arabian proverb**: “Do a good deed and throw it into the river; when this dries up you shall find it.” *How about the words of Jesus in Luke 6:38* “Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap”.

Proverbs 19:17 He who gives to the poor lends to the Lord

Proverbs 11:25 The generous soul will be made rich, And **he who waters** will also be watered himself.

Jesus underscored this wisdom when He said, “Freely ye have received; freely give” (see Matthew 10:8).


Bottom line people... you can't out give God... spend your life trying... it will be a good life! No doubt this is true and a great way to live but I think it might not be what Solomon is saying here...

“Cast thy bread upon the waters” may be paraphrased, “Send out your grain in ships.” Solomon himself was involved in various kinds of trade, so it was natural for him to use this illustration (1 Kings 10:15, 22).

To “cast [one’s] bread upon the waters” is to engage in international trade, sending one’s grain or other produce out to sea and then waiting for the ships to return with fine goods from foreign lands. To **“find it after many days,”** therefore, is to receive the reward that eventually comes after taking the risk of a wise investment.

Nothing ventured, nothing gained.

Hughes gives a very practical application... “The Preacher invites us to handle our spiritual business the same way. What we invest in the kingdom of God – our time, our talent, our treasure – it is never wasted. But if we want the blessings that God loves to give, **we need to exercise our faith:**



Ships on commercial voyages might be long delayed before any profit resulted. Yet one’s goods had to be committed to them. Solomon’s fleet which brought back “gold, silver, ivory, apes, and peacocks” (1 Kings 10:22) sailed once in three years. Similarly the preacher has called his readers to take life as from the hand of God, and to enjoy it despite its trials and perplexities. Such a life contains within it the elements of trust and adventure (*Cast*), demands total commitment (for *your bread* is used in the sense of “goods, livelihood,” as in Deut. 8:3, Prov. 31:14), and has a forward look to it (*you will find*), a reward which requires patience (*after many days*). **Do**

Something!

“You can’t steal home and keep your foot on third base.”

Hey, **“nothing ventured, nothing gained.” “To win you’ve got to risk losing.” “You may be disappointed if you fail, but you are **doomed** if you never try.”**



Do Something! Life has a certain amount of risk to it, and that’s where faith comes in. A turtle doesn’t get anywhere until he sticks his neck out!

2 Give a serving to seven, and also to eight, For you do not know what evil will be on the earth.

Solomon the preacher now makes a similar but slightly different point. To “give a portion to seven or even to eight” is a way of saying, **“Don’t put all your eggs in one basket.”** In business this would be called “diversifying investments.” Or “Asset Allocation” Rather than focusing narrowly on a single product or service, many companies try to widen their interests.

Chuck Missler applies this to the Tithes... Why tithes?

It acknowledges the Creator’s rights—The Tenth of all is His; it is the antidote for greed and covetousness; it is a test of our faith and it is the solution to every financial problem! As Pat McCrary one of our Elders reminds us that we cannot be involved in every ministry but when we tithe we are a part of every ministry. **NOW THAT IS DIVERSIFICATION!**

One commentary brings this wonderful spiritual application to this verse, “Rather than holding on to what we have, hoarding it all for ourselves – which is the error that the man with one talent made in a parable that Jesus told in Matthew 25:24-28 – God invites us to be venture capitalists for the kingdom of God. This is not exclusively or even primarily about money. It is about having the holy boldness to do seven (or even eight) things to spread the gospel and then waiting for God’s ship to come in. Some of the things that we attempt may fail (or at least seem to fail at the time) – some of the ministries we start, for example, or the churches we plant, or the efforts we make to share the good news of the cross and the empty tomb. But we should never stop investing with the gospel in as many places as we can. Whenever we engage in kingdom enterprises, we offer the Holy Spirit something he can and often will use to save people’s souls.” **Do Something!**

3 If the clouds are full of rain, They empty *themselves* upon the earth; And if a tree falls to the south or the north, In the place where the tree falls, there it shall lie. 4 He who observes the wind will not sow, And he who regards the clouds will not reap.

These two verses warn us what will happen if we do not obey the commands in verse 1-2. If we fail to invest wisely and give generously, we will never do any productive spiritual work that will yield a kingdom harvest.

He who is always anticipating the storm or worried about which way the tree will fall will never sow and, therefore, never reap.

5 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, So you do not know the works of God who makes everything.



Oh the precious works of God who has made everything... We know more than we have ever known and those who know Jesus fall more in love with Him the more we know of His creation.

The Preacher clearly states the child in the womb is merely not a body but also a living spirit. Who can possibly explain the mystery of how the life of a soul animates flesh and blood and bone? We are indeed “fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psalm 139:14). **The Baby in the womb... REALLY!**

So you do not know the works of God who makes everything.

MACRO, MIRCO AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN. 800,000 cataloged insects, with billions in some of the species... **ALL CREATED BY JESUS!** There are more insects in **one square mile** of rural land than there are human beings on the entire earth.

BEES: they make their own air conditioning. When the weather gets hot, and threatens to melt the wax in the hive, one group of bees will go to the entrance of the hive, and another will stay inside. **They will then flap their wings all together,** making a **CROSS DRAFT** that pulls the hot air out of the hive, and draws cooler air inside. **Oh Worship our magnificent God and creator.**

Christ is creator of all! And HE IS IN CHARGE OF THE UNIVERSE! Psalm 19:1 *The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge.*

Saturn's rings are 500,000 miles in circumference, but only about a foot thick.

A star known as **LP 327-186** is a so called **white dwarf**. It is smaller than the state of Texas; yet it is so dense that if a cubic inch of it were brought to earth, it would weigh more than **1.5 million tons**.

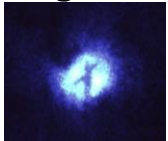
THE EARTH TRAVELS AROUND THE SUN ABOUT 8 TIMES THE SPEED OF A BULLET FIRED FROM A GUN.

M51 MESSIER 51 –THE WHIRLPOOL GALAXY

23 million light years away **towards** the Big Dipper

A **BLACK HOLE**, among the most mysterious elements in the universe, it is all that remains of a massive star that has used up its nuclear fuel. Lacking energy to combat the force of its own gravity, the star compresses or shrinks in size to a single point, called a **singularity**. **At this point, pressure and density are infinite**. Any object or even light that gets too close to a black hole is pulled in, stretched to infinity, and trapped forever.

M5 1 The first surprise was not the existence of a massive black hole in the center, but rather "that the ring is standing almost perpendicular to the relatively flat spiral galaxy, like a top spinning on its side with respect to the floor. **Even more surprising** and irregular is the discovery of a secondary ring or dust lane which is contrary to all expectations."



1 Corinthians 2:2 For I determined not to know anything among you except **Jesus Christ** and Him **crucified**.

1 Corinthians 1:18 For the message of the **cross** is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. A single **HUMAN CHROMOSOME** contains **20 billion bits of information**. How much information is that? If written in ordinary books, in ordinary language, it would take about **4,000 VOLUMES**.

LAMININ Is a protein molecule that serves as glue in the body
It holds all the muscles and organs and skin together

It's a **glue-like structure** in every cell of the body

A cancer specialist wrote: **"Laminin is beyond understanding"**

“It is a molecular protein whose purpose is to glue the body together and to aid in cellular communication and as an aid in controlling cellular death”

There are billions of cells in the body

These cells come from one cell in the beginning

They specialize into groups and organs

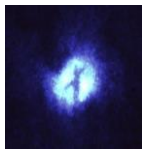
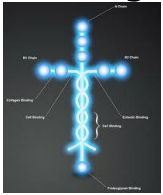
They can do all this by the protein molecule called **laminin**

If there is an abnormality in the glue or proteins like laminin then there is an abnormal growth **resulting in cancer**

Jesus has placed the **image of redemption** on the very fabric of our

universe and on the fabric of our

cellular makeup. You can remove a cross from the buildings, but not from M51 or the cell laminin.



5 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, So you do not know the works of God who makes everything.

As we land this plane... Let's tie verse 4 to verse 6

4 He who observes the wind will not sow, And he who regards the clouds will not reap. **The wind is never right for the sower and the clouds are never right for the reaper. If you are looking for an excuse for doing nothing, you can always find one.**

Billy Sunday said that an excuse was “the skin of a reason stuffed with a lie.”

Back in chapter 10, the Preacher introduced us to a foolish homeowner who was too lazy to fix his roof (v. 18). The farmer in chapter 11 also refuses to work, but he is a different kind of fool. He keeps watching and waiting, but never sowing or reaping.

Why not?

➔ Because rather than getting on with his work, he keeps hoping for better conditions. **Do Something! Do not hold back because of fear, but step out by faith.**

Solomon is saying “**you will never reap if you never sow.**” So work hard for the kingdom of God. Live boldly and creatively. **Do Something!**

6 In the morning **sow your seed**, And in the evening do not withhold your hand; For you do not know which will prosper, Either this or that, Or whether both alike *will be* good.

Jesus told a famous parable about a farmer who sowed his seed on 4 different types of soil. When he explained this parable to his disciples, he told them that **“the sower sows the word”** (Mark 4:14). Of all the things that we ought to be sowing, therefore, the most important is the living Word of God.

We sow the Word when we read it, We sow the Word when we study it,

We sow the word when we Mediate upon it, **We sow the Word when we memorize it.**

We sow the Word when we teach it to our children at bedtime or around the family dinner table.

We sow the Word when we give someone a Bible or use a simple verse from Scripture with a friend who needs to know Jesus.

We sow the Word when we take it to the prison, the nursing home, and the college or university campus. We sow the Word when we support sound Biblical preaching in our own local congregation, as well as through missions and ministries that broadcast the gospel around the world. There is no one single way to **sow your seed**; the best way to do it is every way we can.

Isaiah 55:10-11 “For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, **11** So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it.

2 Corinthians 9:6 But this *I say*: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

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.

Luke Short at the tender age of 103. Short was sitting under a hedge in Virginia when he happened to remember a sermon he had once heard preached by the **famous Puritan John Flavel**. As he recalled the sermon, Short asked God to forgive his sins right then and there, through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. He lived for more than three years, and when he died, the following words were inscribed on his tombstone: “Here lies a babe in grace, aged three years, who died according to nature, aged 106.” But here is the remarkable part of the story: the sermon that old Mr. Short remembered had been preached eighty-five years earlier, back in England! Nearly a century had passed between Flavel’s sermon and Short’s conversion, between the sowing and the reaping.

Solomon is screaming “Do Something!” Miles McPherson in his book entitled “Do Something” wrote this, “The world needs you. It’s broken. Look around you. We’re facing economic chaos, endless wars, AIDS, famine, ecological ruin, political corruption – the list is endless. Your neighbors are in desperate need of love and a helping hand. It’s my belief that what the world needs is God’s love. But whether or not you share my Christian beliefs, you can recognize that someone needs to do something. Right now! That someone can be you. You were created to do something great. You want your life to count, or you wouldn’t have picked up this book. There’s no better way to make a difference in the world than to take action and help someone out.”

Get involved in ministry. Show mercy to someone in need. Start a friendship with a neighbor, and pray that God will use that relationship to lead your neighbor to Christ. Sow God’s word in everyway possible

Work hard from morning till night, making the most of your time by offering God a full day’s work. Then leave the results to him, knowing that he will use your work

in whatever way he sees fit.

Romans 12 verses 1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. **2** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Communion... Jesus I'm not going to wait until the perfect conditions to Sow and Reap... show me where to serve... show me how I can **“Do Something!”**

So cast your bread upon the waters. Give a portion to seven, or even to eight. In the morning sow your seed, and at evening withhold not your hand. What God will do, you never know; but you will never reap if you never sow! **A turtle doesn't get anywhere until he sticks his neck out! DO SOMETHING!**