

Living 101: Take Risks

Ecclesiastes 11:1-6

Discussion Questions

- **Would you describe yourself as a risk taker or risk averse? Give an example from your life that confirms your risk tolerance.**
- **Read Ecclesiastes 11:1-6**
 - What are the three primary imperatives or commands in the text?
 - What are the primary illustrations we must interpret to understand this text?
- **Read Ecclesiastes 11:1. There are two main interpretations of this proverb: 1) give generously to the poor, and your kindness will be repaid, or 2) Invest in risky ventures, because the profit is worth the risk.**
 - Based on the context of the rest of the passage, which interpretation do you believe the preacher is trying to express?
 - Either way the main thrust of this verse is to take risks. Why is it wise to take risks?
- **Read Ecclesiastes 11:2. Consider reading this verse from the ESV, NIV, and NASB to see the differing translations/interpretations.**
 - What is the main point of this imperative?
 - Why is it wise to diversify your assets when taking a risk?
 - With verse 1 & 2 combined we see the main idea of this section as a willingness to take risks, boldly but wisely.
 - Give a modern-day example of this wisdom.
- **Read Ecclesiastes 11:3-4.**
 - How does this section point to the fallen condition of man when it comes to taking risks?
 - What does risk aversion reveal about our trust in God's provision and sovereignty?
 - How does verse 4 point to a "paralysis by analysis."
 - Is that something you personally struggle with?
- **Read Ecclesiastes 11:5.**
 - How does this verse reveal God's sovereignty as a response to the struggles we see in v. 3-4?
- **Read Ecclesiastes 11:6.**
 - Despite the unknown, the command is towards action (taking risks boldly, but wisely). Compare this to the parable of the sower in Luke 8.
 - What area of your life do you need to consider taking bold, but wise, risks?
- **In the sermon application, we were challenged to invest eternally by taking bold risks with our time, talents, and treasures. Which area are you more likely to take risks? Less likely to take risks?**
 - What does that reveal about your trust in God?
- **In the Spiritual Growth Grid we consider the gospel activities of Listen & Obey, Love & Serve, and Go & Multiply. Which of these primary activities can be applied when we take risks boldly, but wisely. Why?**