

Ecclesiastes 12:9-14

Day 1: Make disciples

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 12:9-10, Matthew 28:19-20

Meditation: I've heard the saying that life is like school, except you don't know the lessons until you have failed the examination. While I can see the point, I also believe that God gives us so much in His Word to help with life. Its fascinating to me that what Solomon speaks of here is very similar to what Jesus told us through the Great Commission. Solomon studied the word of God and then sought to deliver through teachings. This is always important to remember in our life. It's not just about knowing God's Word but delivering God's Word.

Reflection: Are you able to see the similarities to Ecclesiastes and what Jesus commanded? Do you actively train others in God's Word? Would someone look to you to seek spiritual advice? If you struggle with this, why do you think you struggle? What can you do to help yourself in becoming better at the Great Commission?

Prayer: Ask God to give you more opportunities to make disciples. Also ask Him to make you more aware of your surroundings.

Day 2: God's word vs man's word

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 12:11-12

Meditation: Both comparisons in this passage are necessary to learn God's truth. We must stay motivated to learn so that we are anchored down during the struggles of life. We need to be more focused on what God's Word says than we are to what a man writes in his book for sale. Because its in God's Word that we will grow and in man's word that we will fail.

Reflection: Do you spend more time reading the writings of man than you do the writings of God? Have you experienced the pains of growing closer to God? If so, can you see where it helped you later when another obstacle arose in your life?

Prayer: Spend some time today thanking God for the "cattle prod" moments of life so that you were able to be "firmly embedded" later in life.

Day 3: If you love me, keep my commands

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 12:13-14, Deuteronomy 6:1-2, John 14:15

Meditation: This is a good conclusion to this book. After Solomon talks about all the things he has observed, he concludes that we need to do two things: fear God and keep His commands. Again, the striking similarity to Solomon's words here and Jesus' words in John 14:15 are so similar it can't be overlooked. It is never enough to just tell others about God's Word, you also need to be following it. Remember, delivering God's Word without living God's word is a life of hallucination.

Reflection: With all that has been said in this book, the conclusion is "fear God and keep His commands". Have you been willing to do this in your life? How easy was it to do? No matter the difficulty level, can you see why Solomon concludes this book with these words?

Prayer: Ask God to give you courage to not just study His Word but to live His Word out in your life.