

Ecclesiastes 6-7 –27 July 2023

“Choosing Your Disposition”

Introduction

*Solomon, the philosopher, in a time spent a part from God sought to find satisfaction “under the sun”

*If chap 1-2 he focused on the *futility of this world’s processes* or procedures finding them empty

*Then chapters 3-5 he focuses us on our *expectations being disappointed* by this world’s temporary goodness

*Now Chap 6-7 will challenge us to consider with *what disposition will we go thru this life?*

**Disposition* – Wb 1828 – The natural constitution of your mind – the manner in which you arrange life

*What thoughts & actions do you have a propensity toward?

***Today we’ll see 5 dispositions given by Solomon**

#1 – The Businessman: Wisdom working hard (Chap 6)

Read Chap 6:1-2

1. With riches comes responsibility to protect it
 - a. Takes time/money to provide protection
 - b. The more you get, the more you spend to provide for it
 - c. By the time you get a handle on things, you die and another gets the possessions

Read Vs 3-5

1. If you get good things, but haven't the time or money to enjoy them, it would've been better to be still born
2. A still born has more rest (vs 5), in the sense of peace & satisfaction

Read Vs 6-8

1. We don't all go to one place – this is wrong
 - a. Yes, we all have a common end (death) in *this* life under the sun
 - b. But there is the Kingdom of God to live for

2. Does the bag of your labor leak for its holes?
 - a. We reject this businessman view of life
 - b. Turn to Hag 1:3-7 – Those who put so much into the world without committing to eternity will never be satisfied

Read Vs 9

1. Better to enjoy what's in front of you than constantly be wanting more
2. The idea of “find contentment in the here & now” is dangerous and futile
 - a. Futile b/c there is nothing to content us
 - b. Dangerous b/c it takes our eyes off of the valuable things of eternity

Read Vs 10

1. We know what man is by now & can't change it b/c God is stronger than us
2. Solomon says, not only is life futile, but we're *helpless to ever change it*

Read Vs 11-12

1. There are so many things in this life that can *make you busy not better*
 - a. True – that’s why we have to look above the sun

#2 – The Blue: Sorrow is coming for all of us (Chap 7:1-4)

Read Chap 7:1-4

1. *Sorrow is better than joy* b/c it prepares you for inevitable death – (this is sad & untrue)
 - a. This is the Eeyore disposition
2. We reject this sorrowful view of life; 2 reasons
 - a. Solomon (w/ right thinking) rejected them (Read Psm 30:5)
 - b. Jesus rejected them (Read John 16:20-22)

#3 – The Bunkered: Just patiently endure life (Chap 7:5-14)

Read Chap 7:5-9

1. Succumb to just *patiently enduring life's oppression* (this isn't good enough)
2. We reject this view of life; for we live in hope!
 - a. Read Heb 6:13-15 – He DID receive!

Read Vs 10-12

1. Solomon's idea is that with wisdom you can gain in this world
 - a. May gain some money, comfort or security, but certainly NOT life (as Solomon says)
 - b. Read I Cor 1:18-21: ***Cross destroyed wisdom***

Read Vs 13-14

1. Again, it's a good premise w/ bad conclusion
2. Yes, there's prosperity & adversity, but there IS something after life
 - a. Read I Pet 1:3-4 – Inheritance coming!

#4 – The Bi-partisan: Just don't go to extremes (Chap 7:15-22)

Read Chap 7:15-18

1. Solomon argues that *we shouldn't go to extremes* (don't be too wise or too foolish)
 - a. He's already argued falsely that much wisdom just brings *knowledge* of the futility of life & much foolishness is the same just without *knowledge* of it
 - b. He says, just live a balanced life
 - i. Without real convictions & drive
2. We reject this view of life – for we *are* gain wisdom of *certain* worthy things!
 - a. Read Rom 16:19: wise of good, simple of evil
 - b. Read Psm 19:7: Word of God makes us wise

Read Vs 19-22

1. Gaining wisdom is good - to the extent that the wise understand his own sinfulness

2. Solomon concludes saying, ‘don’t take in all there is to take in, for you’ll hear much sinfulness’
 - a. When you have a post that goes viral, you don’t have to read all the comments – you’ll find all kinds!
3. As Christians we seek to gain wisdom on good godly things – THAT is ALL good, nothing negative in it

#5 – The Bloated: Indulge into your cravings (Chap 7:23-29)

Read Chap 7:23-25

1. *Even in seeking wisdom, Solomon was frustrated and unfulfilled*
2. He’s left wondering if he can even trust his own words
 - a. Great question to ask!!!
 - b. Hint: no he can’t – he should trust only in God’s Word

Read Vs 26-29

1. Of all the things around man that are to aid in bringing wisdom & joy, the woman (his closest) *could be* his greatest harm & hindrance
 - a. Read I Kings 11:4 – late in Solomon’s life
2. Of vs 28, this speaks of the sort of women *Solomon consorted with* more than it speaks of *the wisdom of women*
 - a. We reject this bloated view of life as if women can only promote the flesh-life
 - b. Read Prov 31 & try telling me that’s not a wise woman – (see Prov 31:26)
3. Of vs 29 – Solomon believes that man was made by God correctly, but that we’ve corrupted ourselves
 - a. You got that right!

Conclusion

So, what disposition are your approaching life with?

1. **Are you the Businessperson working hard?**
2. **Are you the Blue always pessimistic?**
3. **Are you the Bunkered nervously holding on?**
4. **Are you the Bi-partisan always compromising?**
5. **Are you the Bloated indulging in the flesh?**

We CAN'T find satisfaction in ANY of these!

The only disposition for a satisfied life is to be called
The Believer!

1. The Believer that works hard at serving Christ
2. The Believer that receives hope when they're blue
3. The Believer that's at peace in the storm
4. The Believer that's seen as radical for Jesus
5. The Believer that produces fruit of the Spirit

WE TRUST JESUS!!