

(I'm)mortal

Week 1: Death: The Gift of Limitation

Ecclesiastes 7:2-4

Main idea: Ignoring death causes us to live frantically, remembering death is not morbid, it's the first step to living wisely.

Ecclesiastes 7:2–4 (CSB)

<sup>2</sup>It is better to go to a house of mourning than to go to a house of feasting, since that is the end of all mankind, and the living should take it to heart. <sup>3</sup>Grief is better than laughter, for when a face is sad, a heart may be glad. <sup>4</sup>The heart of the wise is in a house of mourning, but the heart of fools is in a house of pleasure.

1. You are not the first to face death.
  - Vs 2b "...Since that is the end of all mankind..."
2. There is a focus that can come from facing death
  - Vs 2c "...the living should take it to heart."

God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pain: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world. – CS Lewis "The Problem of Pain"

"Only one life, twill soon be passed. Only what's done for Christ will last." – C.T. Studd (1860-1931)

3. Grief is always authentic
  - Vs 3 Grief is better than laughter, for when a face is sad, a heart may be glad.
4. If you'll let it, remembering death can give a heart of wisdom
  - Vs 4 The heart of the wise is in a house of mourning, but the heart of fools is in a house of pleasure.

The world says: "Don't think about death. It's depressing."

Ecclesiastes says: "Think about death. It will make you wise."

And the Gospel says something even greater:

**Because of Jesus, death doesn't get the last word.**

Which means the Christian can do something the world cannot.

We can face our mortality honestly...**because we have been promised immortality.**

Ecclesiastes says wisdom begins when we remember we are mortal. The Gospel says hope begins when we remember **Jesus is risen**. And when you hold those two truths together, you finally...truly...live.