Don’t Ask Stupid Questions

Brent Moody · Ecclesiastes 7:8–10

INTRODUCTION

- Good questions really are directed toward greater discussion or deeper thought. They seek to understand better.
- But there are questions that really seek to justify actions or beliefs, like the man who says, Who is my neighbor?
- Say not, why were the former days better than these? For it is not from wisdom that you ask this.

1 I Just Can’t Go Back to the Past

Philippians 2:14; Philippians 4:11; Philippians 3:13–14

- I just can’t go back to the past. Like this is fruitless thought.
- Do all things without grumbling and disputing in Philippians chapter 2 and verse 14.
- I’ve learned in whatever situation I am to be content.
- This sort of undue nostalgia is actually the sin of discontentment.
- One thing I do, forgetting what lies behind, and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on.

2 Former Days Are Better in Memory Than in Reality

Ecclesiastes 7:8–9

- The former days are better in memory than they are in reality.
- We also tend to aggrandize the past. To have a selective memory.
- To think about how great it all once was, but actually also forgetting all the difficulties and trials.
- It’s better to be patient. It’s better to not be quick to get angry or to be frustrated.
- We imagine how great things used to be, but even worse, we kind of find all the problems with things as they now are.

3 Wisdom Protects Us

Ecclesiastes 7:11–12

- The wise man tells us that wisdom protects us.
- For the protection of wisdom is like the protection of money.
- Wisdom protects us by giving us much needed perspective, which is really what Ecclesiastes is all about.
- There’s nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. This also I saw is from the hand of God.
- When you understand God and who he is and the purpose behind everything, it changes everything.
- Without God, you’re just a gatherer. You’re just a collector.

4 Dwelling on the Past Blinds Us to Blessings

Ecclesiastes 7:13

- It's foolish to dwell on the past, to linger there, to long for it, to have this undue affection and nostalgia for all the things past.
- Because all that actually really does is blind us to the blessings we have in the moment.
- For he will not much remember the days of his life, because God keeps him occupied with joy in his heart.
- When we long and we have affection and we dwell, and that becomes our focus and our fixation, we're only stealing joy from the present.
- Consider the work of God. Who can make straight what he has made crooked?
- It's really a decision to live with a certain kind of attitude. A commitment to find joy in our lot in life, whatever that may be.

THE CHALLENGE

You take the suffering, the struggles, the depression, the monotony of life, all the things that seem terrible and horrible and difficult, and you can transition all of those to the glory of God by now joining yourself to him through baptism in Jesus Christ.

MY NOTES