



# The Myth of Control

Brent Moody · Ecclesiastes 7:13–24 · Series: **Life Under the Sun**

## INTRODUCTION

- The first myth is that I have the ability to control much of my life.
- If I can just get more control, then more will be okay.
- But then that leads to this third myth, which is that the problems in life are my fault.

## 1 Accept Limitations

Ecclesiastes 7:24

- Accept limitations, accept the limits that we have as humans.
- The first of these is that wisdom and skill itself have limitations.
- However much a man may toil in seeking, he will not find it out. Even though a wise man claims to know, he cannot find it out.
- That as hard as we try, there are things that are on God's level that I will never grasp, and you will never grasp.
- We have to accept the limitations that we have as creatures rather than creators.
- We also can't fix people. They have to decide they want to be wise.

## 2 Avoid Extremes

Ecclesiastes 7:15–17; Ecclesiastes 7:26–28

- As we accept the limits of human capability, we also need to be the kind of people who avoid extremes.
- If I just do the right thing, if I'm obedient in every circumstance, if I always keep the rules. And the wise man is here to tell us that's just not how life works.
- There's a righteous man who perishes in his righteousness. And there's a wicked man who prolongs his life even in his evil doing.
- So don't kill yourself trying to be the most righteous person that's ever lived, to obligate God to bless you in life. Don't do that.
- But also, don't be overly wicked and be a fool and die before your time.
- Apathy is not the answer to life that gives joy.

## 3 Fear God and Trust Him

- The answer is not to think that we can grasp control of all things.
- The answer ultimately is that we fear God. This is what he keeps hitting on throughout the book that we trust him. We trust the one who is in control.
- What matters is not bending the world to me, but trusting the God who governs the world in the way he sees fit.

- Though a sinner does evil a hundred times and prolongs his life, yet I know that it will be well with those who fear God, because they fear before him.
- The security and the protection and the peace and the joy I'm going to find in life comes from enjoying the things that God has given me, but more than that, putting my trust and dependence upon him.

#### THE CHALLENGE

Can we help you with that this morning? You can give your life to Jesus Christ.

#### MY NOTES

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