The Teacher's Message

Brent Moody · Series: **Life Under the Sun**

INTRODUCTION

- He wants to challenge our thinking, particularly in ways in which we tend to be comfortable or maybe idealistic and how we view the world.
- To neglect those deeper thoughts, to be unwilling to challenge our thinking, to consider these tough truths and realities really stands in the way of our growth.

1 A Balance to Books Like Proverbs

Proverbs 11:19

- Proverbs is a book that's sort of idealistic. You live righteous, you do the right things, good things will happen.
- That's not always how things work. Yes, that is generally the case, but the reality is sometimes you're righteous and bad things happen. Sometimes you're wicked and evil and good things happen.
- There is a righteous man who perishes in his righteousness, and there is a wicked man who prolongs his life in his evil doing.
- What we'll see is we don't have nearly as much control as we'd like to think.

2 Life Is Vanity and Striving After Wind

Psalm 144

- Life is vanity and striving after wind. Those ideas are actually very connected.
- The literal idea here is something more like life is smoke, life is vapor, life is mist.
- What happens if you walk over and you try to hold it? It's gone. It slips through your fingers.
- It can mean something like temporary.
- But it also can mean something like enigma or mystery or paradox.
- We're reaching out for something that looks substantive, but when we grab it, all we're getting is air.

3 Life Under the Sun Is Very Limited

Ecclesiastes 6

- Life under the sun is very limited in its perspective.
- The things we see don't look right on earth, but from God's perspective, they can look very different.
- Just because I see things a certain way doesn't mean that they are actually reality.
- Death and time and chance are unavoidable. They're just a part of what happens to us.
- The things that we think will satisfy us in life often just don't.

4 Live in the Moment: Life Is the Gift of God

- Say not, why were the former days better than these? For it is not from wisdom that you ask this.
- The very thing that brings meaning and purpose and joy and life, and that is live in the moment. Even when the moment is difficult and hard.
- There's nothing better to eat and to drink than to be merry. For this is the gift of God.
- So if a person lives many years, let him rejoice in them all. But let him remember that the days of darkness will be many.
- Live in the present with the joy of the Lord in your heart, appreciating the fact that God has blessed you in the way that he's blessed you.
- Remember, it's about choices, not circumstances.

THE CHALLENGE

If you're looking for joy and peace and fulfillment in life, the message of Scripture in general is that you will only have peace when you've been justified in Jesus Christ.

MY NOTES