Life Is Hevel. So Don't Wait.

Ecclesiastes 10–12:8

Warm-Up

When Daryn and I started talking about taking a vacation with the kids, we looked at Hawaii, Seattle, Northern California, San Diego, and eventually even Anaheim. We kept looking for the best option, the best price, and the perfect timing. At some point, we realized we might spend so much time trying to find the perfect vacation that we never actually take one!

Have you ever found yourself doing something similar? Maybe trying to make the perfect decision, waiting for the perfect timing, or keeping all your options open, only to miss an opportunity right in front of you?

1. Don't Wait for Certainty to Start Sowing

Ecclesiastes 11:1–6

1. Read Ecclesiastes 11:1–6. What stands out to you about the repeated emphasis on not knowing what will happen? Even though we don't know what tomorrow holds, what does the Teacher encourage us to do? What does this teach us about trusting God while still taking action?

2. I mentioned that sometimes we call it being careful or wise, but if we're honest, sometimes it's just fear. We wait until we have more money, more time, more confidence, or more clarity before taking a step. Where do you see that tendency in your own life? Is there something God has put in your hands that you've been holding on to instead of faithfully using?

3. I said, "We don't have to control the outcome. We have to be faithful with the opportunity." What is one opportunity God has given you right now to be generous, serve, use your gifts, encourage someone, or take a step of obedience? What would it look like to stop waiting for perfect conditions and take that step this week?

2. Don't Wait for What's Next to Enjoy Life Now

Ecclesiastes 11:7–10

4. Read Ecclesiastes 11:7–10. The Teacher tells us to enjoy the years we've been given, while also reminding us that life won't always be easy and that we are accountable to God. Why do

you think those two ideas belong together? What does it look like to enjoy life without losing sight of God?

5. When Harper and Hudson were babies, there were times I wished they would grow up and become a little more independent. Now, what I wouldn't give to go back and hold them just one more time. It reminded me how easy it is to wish away the season we're in because we're focused on what's next.

What season of life are you in right now that you might be tempted to wish away? Are you so focused on what you want next that you might be missing something God has given you today?

6. I've tried to remind myself: "Enjoy the good while it's good, because it won't last forever. And when it's hard, remember this won't last forever either."

How might that perspective change the way you're approaching your current season? What's one ordinary moment, relationship, or gift that you want to be more intentional about enjoying instead of rushing past?

3. Don't Wait for Someday, Remember Your Creator Today

Ecclesiastes 12:1–8

7. Read Ecclesiastes 12:1–8. The Teacher uses some pretty vivid imagery to describe aging and the reality of death. Why do you think he emphasizes remembering our Creator while we're young? What does this passage teach us about the importance of not putting our relationship with God off until later?

8. One of the questions I asked was, "What if someday doesn't come?" It's easy to assume we'll have more time to get serious about God, surrender something, or take a step of obedience.

Is there an area of your relationship with God that you've been putting off? What's keeping you from responding today?

9. Read Psalm 90:12, Matthew 6:33–34, and James 4:13–17. What do these passages teach us about the brevity of life, the uncertainty of tomorrow, and the importance of living faithfully today? How should these truths shape the way we approach our time, priorities, and relationship with God?

Bringing It All Together

10. Of the three points, which one do you find yourself needing to hear most right now?

- Don't wait for certainty to start sowing.

- Don't wait for what's next to enjoy life now.
- Don't wait for someday, remember your Creator today.

11. As you think about your life right now, what's one thing you've been putting off that you don't want to keep putting off? What's one step you can take this week to respond faithfully to God?

Spend Some Time Praying

Take a few minutes to share how you can pray for one another. Pray that God would help us live open-handedly, enjoy the gifts He's given us, and remember our Creator today. We don't know what tomorrow holds, but we can be faithful with what He's given us today.