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Read 10:1 to 11:10 (and/or listen to Complete Bible NIV audible chapter 669)

SUMMARY

In chapters 10 and 11 of this Ecclesiastes, the Preacher is going to give us wise counsel on wisdom and FOLLY, rulers, the unpredictability of life, speech, business, and your perspective on life.

FOLLY or foolishness refers to someone who lacks the proper fear or respect for God. He or she is therefore prone to go in the wrong direction in life.

THE BURDEN OF FOLLY Ecc. 10:1-20

- (10:1) As the author of the book of proverbs Solomon had a vast experience in thinking about life and composing wise sayings. It's not surprising then that as he moves towards his conclusion of Ecclesiastes he includes a string of proverbial statements. What Solomon is saying here is that fools make their folly known; there's no hiding it. It only takes a little foolishness in fact to contaminate an otherwise sweet reputation and stink it up.
- (10:3) though a man's wisdom may be unseen or even forgotten by everyone but God a fool's actions are visible to all. Whichever way a wise man goes in fact you can count on a fool heading in the opposite direction.
- (10:8-10) Wisdom doesn't eliminate all negative contingencies nevertheless wisdom gives a person an edge that you don't want to be without.
- (10:12-14) One way to know fools is by how much they talk. Elsewhere Solomon reminds us "When there are many words sin is unavoidable" (Prov 10:19)
- (10:18) You don't have to intentionally break something, just fail to take care of it. This can be applied to the physical realm as well as to the spiritual. Neglect your spiritual life and it will deteriorate.
- (10:20) Watch the words you say. Do not curse the king even in private. For a bird of the sky may carry the message and report the matter. This advice sounds like Solomon was anticipating our age of YouTube and social media! And indeed, things said in secret often have a way of getting out. Be on guard.

INVEST IN LIFE Ecc. 11:1-10

➤ (11:1-6) At issue here is the need to practice fiscal responsibility. Give your investments time to grow and diversify. For you don't know what disaster may happen. In other words, don't put all your eggs in one basket. Practice occupational responsibility too. One who watches the wind will not sow, meaning that if you procrastinate because of circumstances you won't accomplish anything.

Since you don't know the work of God who makes everything, ***don't put God in a box based on your limited perspective and framework of thinking.*** He'll blow up your box every time. Instead, be industrious as you trust him. In the morning sow your seed and at evening do not let your hand rest.

➤ (11:8-10) Maximize your life while you can because you can't go back and do it over again. Today is the tomorrow that you were looking for yesterday. But remember: for all of these things God will bring you judgement. You and God are going to talk about your choices one day so live with the end in view.