

**Ecclesiastes 8:10-9:10**  
**"The Wise and The Fool"**

Lynyrd Skynyrd's mom once said to him— "Come sit beside my, my only son. And listen closely to what I say. And if you do this, it'll help you some sunny day. *Take your time, don't live too fast, troubles will come and they will pass, you'll find a woman, yeah, and you'll find love and don't forget, son, there is someone up above. Be a simple kind of man*"

**Compare and contrast how the wise and the fool deal with 4 areas:**

- **Passing, Patience, Presence, and Portion**

**1. Passing: The wise hears and heeds the lesson of death, the fool ignores it (10)**

- **Hebrews 9:27a**

- It should be a lesson for them on how not to live but they ignore that reality
  - The lessons from a righteous and unrighteous man
- sentiment in Scripture (**Psalms 73:1-3**)

**2. Patience: The wise understands God's patience, the fool abuses it. (11)**

- *Kindness leads to repentance*
- **Romans 2:4— Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?**
  - We look to the cross and see God's execution of justice
  - We are so underserving
  - God's patience for the sinner and the saint
- **2 Peter 3:1-13**
- **Hebrews 9:27b**
  - Are you thinking you've got time? Are you betting on it?
  - Stop presuming on the patience of the Lord and be wise this morning

**3. Presence: The wise rejoices in the immanence of God, the fool rejects it. (12-13)**

- **"before Him"**
- Wisdom sees the realness and nearness of God
- It is and will be well for those who fear him
- Not well for those who do not.. they will be judged for this sin.

**4. Portion: The wise knows their limits and place in the sovereignty of God, the fool is unaware (14-9:10)**

- If we could control or explain everything, there is no need for faith or trust
- The gift Ecclesiastes is giving us is the gift of letting go of control
- Steward what you have, faithful in what you can't see, trust in what you don't understand
- A gift to be received not a prize to be achieved
- The wise know where they are... in the hands of God (9:1)
- **Psalms 73:16-28**
  - Asaph sounds like the Preacher in verse 16
    - It was in the house of the Lord that He gained perspective
      - God's patience to Asaph 2 (21-22)
      - God's presence (23)
      - God's portion (26)

## **Small Group Discussion:**

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the Scripture and sermon? What stood out to you? What questions do you have?
2. **Passing**  
Ecclesiastes says the wise let the reality of death teach them how to live, while the fool ignores it. **How does the certainty of death shape the way you're living right now?** What's one way you see our culture (or yourself) tempted to ignore that reality instead of learning from it?
3. **Patience**  
Scripture says God's kindness and patience are meant to lead us to repentance—not delay. **Where are you most tempted to presume on God's patience?** How does looking at the cross reshape the way you think about “having more time”?
4. **Presence**  
The wise live with an awareness that they are *before Him*, while the fool lives as if God is distant or irrelevant. **What does it practically look like for you to live with an awareness of God's nearness this week?** How does fearing the Lord change the way you face both joy and difficulty?
5. **Portion**  
Ecclesiastes invites us to let go of control and trust our lives to God's sovereignty. **Where do you struggle most to release control and receive life as a gift rather than something to achieve?** How does knowing you are “in the hands of God” (9:1) bring freedom—or tension—for you?