

SUNDAY - June 21, 2026

The Grind: Ecclesiastes 11:1-10 - Dad's Ted Talk

SERMON SUMMARY:

Solomon teaches that while life is often unpredictable and unfair, we are not called to sit still in fear but to live wisely and faithfully. He encourages generous giving, consistent habits, calculated risks, and trusting God with outcomes we cannot control, knowing that faithful choices often bear fruit over time. He also warns against letting anger, bitterness, and vexation take root, comparing them to a poison that slowly shapes the heart. Instead, believers are called to cultivate joy, gratitude, spiritual disciplines, and a heavenly perspective, choosing daily to bless others, reject resentment, and walk in wisdom despite life's uncertainties.

SCRIPTURE:

Ecclesiastes 11:1-10, Luke 6:38, 2 Corinthians 9:7, Romans 10:17, Psalm 119:11, Psalm 1:1-3, 1 Peter 5:7, James 4:2, Colossians 3:1-2

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What are the four specific, practical actions Solomon commands in verses 1, 2, 4, and 6?
2. What two contrasting outcomes does Solomon present for the one who constantly watches the wind versus the one who sows seed?
3. According to the text, what is the danger of letting "vexation" remain in the heart, and what is the direct command given about it?
4. What reasons does Solomon give for a young person to choose cheerfulness and to follow the impulses of their heart?
5. The principle of "casting bread upon the waters" is linked to the idea of reciprocity. How can someone practice this kind of generous investment without it becoming a selfish or manipulative tactic?
6. Solomon warns that waiting for perfect conditions leads to inaction. What are some common "perfect conditions" people wait for before taking a step of faith or making a significant life decision, and why is this waiting so dangerous?
7. The text says the "sins of the father" can echo through generations. In what ways can a parent's practical choices—like financial habits, work ethic, or approach to conflict—create a spiritual and practical inheritance for their children?
8. Vexation and pain are said to "bioaccumulate" like a poison. How does this accumulation process change a person's outlook and behavior over time, making it harder to break free from negativity?
9. Identify one "bankable" habit—like saving money, building a good reputation, or seeking mentorship—that you have neglected. What is one small, concrete step you can take this week to start investing in it?

10. Is there a generous act you have felt prompted to do but talked yourself out of because the timing wasn't perfect or the recipient might not deserve it? What would it look like to "cast that bread" anyway and trust the outcome to God?
11. Think of a recent situation that caused you irritation or anger. Replaying it in your mind only feeds the poison of vexation. What does it look like, in that moment, to literally change direction—to stop and pray a blessing for the person involved instead of ruminating on the offense?
12. The text connects simple physical disciplines, like getting sunlight, with the condition of the soul. What is one daily rhythm—a walk outside, a time of prayer, reading Scripture—that you can commit to this week to actively "choose light" and reset your heart's posture?
13. Consider a risk you believe God is calling you to take—whether in sharing faith, reconciling a relationship, or stepping out in obedience. What is the fear or "perfect condition" you are waiting for, and what would it look like to move forward in faith now instead of waiting?