ECCLESIASTES	
Let's Stop Pretending	

## What Is Better?

What is good for a man while he lives?

Ecclesiastes 7:1-14

## BIG IDEA: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Living with \_\_\_\_\_\_ is better.

 $\rightarrow$  What about Jesus? (Luke 23:1-25) Jesus' life revealed a good name to a pagan governor.

2. Living with \_\_\_\_\_\_ is better.

Better	Not Better
Day of death	
House of mourning	House of feasting
	Laughter
House of mourning	House of mirth

## Conclusions:

- \_\_\_\_\_ makes us think. (2)
- Sorrow can oddly result in \_\_\_\_\_. (3)
  - → What about Jesus? (Hebrews 12:1-2) Jesus endured His death looking beyond His death.
- 3. Living with \_\_\_\_\_\_ is better.
  - Ears that \_\_\_\_\_\_.
    - → What about Jesus? Jesus listened correction and criticism from Christians and non-Christians when he was perfectly right in every instance.
  - Eyes that \_\_\_\_\_.
    - → What about Jesus? (Luke 4:18) Jesus came to "set at liberty those who are oppressed."
- 4. Living with \_\_\_\_\_\_ is better.

"A man of quick temper acts foolishly." Proverbs 14:17

→ What about Jesus? (Luke 22:47-53) Jesus in the face of betrayal, physical violence and threats reacted with patience and without anger. 5. Living with a healthy perspective on \_\_\_\_\_ and

\_\_\_\_\_ is better.

nostalgia = a wistful or excessively sentimental \_\_\_\_\_\_ to or of some past period or irrecoverable condition

 $\rightarrow$  What about Jesus? (Luke 9:51-53) Jesus rejected a sentimental view of the past for a higher calling in the present.

Conclusion:

- Day of prosperity \_\_\_\_\_
- Day of adversity \_\_\_\_\_\_

"God purposefully set up good and bad days in order to hide the future from even the wise." Tremper Longman

## Jesus' life connected to mine:

In Jesus, I have a good name because I am called by Christ's name.

**In Jesus**, I have the humility to accept rebuke and the power to move towards oppression.

**In Jesus**, I have the fruit of the Spirit of patience; therefore, anger does not have to rule me.

**In Jesus**, I can joyfully live in today without romanticizing yesterday while looking forward to tomorrow.

**In Jesus**, I can recognize that God is my Father; therefore, no matter what a day holds I know it is in the hands of my good Father.

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