



#Fail:Redeeming Life From Madness

#Fail Series / Week 4

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Great Start

1 King 3:3-9 (ESV)

³Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of David his father, ... ⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." ... ⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?"

Considering Madness

- **Ecclesiastes 1:17 (ESV)** "And I applied my heart to know wisdom and to know madness and folly."
- **Ecclesiastes 2:12 (ESV)** "So I turned to consider wisdom and madness and folly."

Not So Great Finish

1 King 11:1-6 (ESV)

¹Now King Solomon loved many foreign women... ²from the nations concerning which the LORD had said to the people of Israel "You shall not enter into marriage with them, neither shall they with you, for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods." Solomon clung to these in love. ³He had 700 wives, princesses, and 300 concubines. And his wives turned away his heart. ⁴For when Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly true to the LORD his God as was the heart of David his father. ... ⁶So Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and did not wholly follow the LORD, as David his father had done."

Wisdom = The Truth, The Good, and The Beautiful

- 1) The ability to know the right thing to do,
- 2) The commitment to do the right thing, and
- 3) The passion to do it the right way.

Avoiding madness, assuring meaning

Ecclesiastes 11:1-5 (ESV)

¹*Cast your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days.*"

Hoarding in the present versus investing in the future.

²*Give a portion to seven, or even to eight, for you know not what disaster may happen on earth.*"

Share a portion with many.

³*If the clouds are full of rain, they empty themselves on the earth, and if a tree falls to the south or to the north, in the place where the tree falls, there it will lie.*"

Live intentionally, not by accident.

⁴*He who observes the wind will not sow, and he who regards the clouds will not reap.*"

Stop speculating and standing around watching other people live and get in the game.

⁵*As you do not know the way the spirit comes to the bones in the womb of a woman with child, so you do not know the work of God who makes everything.*"

Final Words

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 (ESV)

"The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. ¹⁴For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil."

Small Group Questions

1. Review Solomon's 'ask' in 1 Kings 3. What can we learn about our prayer requests from this passage?
2. What is a "light weakness" of yours? (Being late, being impatient, shopping, repeatedly watching Rocky...)
3. If madness is defined as excessive indulgence, in what areas of your life may madness be knocking at your front door?
4. I believe the Book of Ecclesiastes is a 'caution light' for all. What areas of your life are currently filled with much meaning? What areas are "flashing yellow"?
5. Read Deuteronomy 29:29. What are your thoughts about this passage?