



GracePoint: A Weekly Sermon Discussion
19 – What One Man Can Do

Announcements:

5/29 @7:30 -

Prayer

~~5/30 @6:30 -~~

~~Grace Group~~
CANCELED

6/2 @8:30 -

Sunday School

~~6/2 @6:00 -~~

~~Family Night~~
CANCELED

ICE BREAKER: What is something that you thought would be too big or hard that you were actually able to do?

READ: Ecclesiastes 9:17-18

There have not been a ton of positive things that Solomon has said throughout Ecclesiastes, but one has popped up a couple of times now: Wisdom is Better! But in the passage we just read we might want to add one more thought: Wisdom is also weaker! Whereas wisdom is seen in the quiet voice that is barely heard, it is compared against the shouting of (the powerful!) ruler. But then, in the second verse we read things that seem even more difficult. While wisdom might be “better” than weapons of war, it doesn’t take much to ruin everything, because “one sinner destroys much good.” and it is that thought that I would like to look at today.

“But what can one man really do?” When we read this question we might think of any of the countless movies and stories that start with an innocent character asking this question and then the moral of the story is that that one person standing in the face of insurmountable odds can be victorious and act as an agent of change. Well Solomon wants us to understand the opposite point here! One sinner, one wretch, one person with ill will or malicious thoughts can derail a whole host of good. As the New Testament says: “A little leaven leavens the whole lump” (Galatians 5:9). Sure, we might think, wisdom is better, but what can it do when all it takes is one sinner to come along and destroy all the good that wisdom has done?

REFLECT: Is wisdom really weaker? Is this the right way to think about these things?

Well before we can get any better (and I promise, we will!) we have to be like the book of Ecclesiastes and make things worse! Can one sinner really destroy much good? Well for what feels like the 100th time in Ecclesiastes a trip back to the very beginning of the Bible would be helpful. In Genesis 1 we read of God creating everything, and for those of us who know the story and flow of that chapter of the bible one phrase sticks out because we read it over and over and over again: “And it was good!”. But what happened between Genesis 1 and everything being good and Ecclesiastes where the world is broken? The short answer is Genesis 3 and the fall of man. When Adam sinned (and thus became the first sinner!) the creation that was good would now groan and be cursed! (“cursed is the ground because of you!” - Genesis 3:17). Through that one man, sin entered the world; and through sin, death and brokenness entered the world. Can one sinner really destroy much good? Well yeah, Adam sure did!

But that is not the end of this. Because while one sinner destroys much good, there is a flip side to that story, and we cannot think of the first Adam without remembering the second!

READ: Romans 5:12-21

There is much to unpack here, and this passage is worth as much time and attention as you can give to it. I would like to make just one thought clear: the goodness that comes from one perfect man (Jesus) far surpasses the bad and destruction that comes from one sinner (Adam). In Jesus we see wisdom, grace, goodness, and more all personified. Therefore in the power of Jesus (his life death, resurrection, ascension and present reign in heaven) we see that wisdom is not just better, but it is also much more powerful! That is our hope in the face of thought like Solomon is illustrating here. And Praise be to the Lord for that!

REFLECT: Review Romans 5. In what ways is Jesus better? How can this help us when we see the brokenness that often comes through sin?