

# Sermon Reflections

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*Living with Uncertainty* (Ecclesiastes 11:1-6)

**Summary:** You cannot know, determine or manipulate the future. So work hard and trust the God who does.

## 1. Stop Hoarding and Stop Holding (vv. 1-2)

- Do these verses make you question your financial stability by telling you to give? Why? Where does this anxiousness come from? Why is Solomon telling us to give in the face of uncertainty? What is it that we're really trusting in?
- Verse 1 (together with Luke 6:38 and 14:14) implies a different "economy" that runs counter to normal financial sense. How does this economy work? What is God telling us about how eternal investment works? What is the ultimate dividend of this kind of investment?
- What is something or someone that you can invest in right now? It needn't be with only money; you can invest time, effort, expertise, or tools. Remember that everything belongs ultimately to God and that we are only stewards of the things and resources He gives.

## 2. Stop Worrying and Stop Watching (vv. 3-4)

- Why do we spend so much time worrying about what will happen? Especially when we cannot control the outcome? What does this betray about our hearts and desires?
- Waiting for the "perfect" time under the sun to start something will leave us waiting too long and render us useless for good work we could be doing now. Is there something that you've been holding back from doing? Have you been holding back something from God, waiting for the "right moment"? Confess it to Him and start doing something about it now.

## 3. Stop Wondering and Start Working (vv. 5-6)

- Consider what these verses say about man seeking to understand God's plan. Can we understand His plan, even for just ourselves? Look at Job 38 and contemplate what we actually understand. Have you been trying to second-guess God?
- These six verses repeat a key phrase – "For you do not know...." What are the three things that Solomon specifically calls out with regard to our effort? Where is our hope in light of this stark uncertainty?
- As believers and followers of Christ, where is our ultimate assurance?
- How does Paul, in Romans 8, illuminate this passage and give us hope beyond the sun?