Is This It? - Eccl 8
November 8, 2026

Message Recap

Ecclesiastes 8 confronts one of life's most difficult questions: Why do people who do wrong sometimes seem to prosper while those who try to do right suffer? When someone hurts us and appears to move on without consequences, it can challenge our understanding of God's justice and goodness.

Solomon reminds us that we cannot control the actions of others, but we can choose how we respond. We are called to maintain our integrity even when people in authority misuse their power, and to remember that God's patience with wrongdoing should never be confused with His approval.

Even when justice seems delayed and our questions remain unanswered, God invites us to receive the good gifts still in front of us. We do not have to wait for every wrong to be made right before experiencing joy, gratitude, and meaningful relationships.

Icebreaker / Personal Reflection

- **Icebreaker:**
  What were your favorite show and movie when you were 12 years old?

- **Reflection:**
  What part of the message resonated with you the most?

Discussion Questions

1. How can the hurt we've experienced from one person begin to affect the way we treat others? What can we do to keep those experiences from changing our character?

2. How do we balance showing respect for authority with standing firm in our convictions when someone in power asks us to compromise our integrity?

3. Ecclesiastes 8:10–11 describes people doing wrong without facing immediate consequences. Why are we sometimes tempted to interpret a lack of consequences as a sign that something is acceptable? How does remembering God's ultimate justice change our perspective?

4. Romans 2:4 teaches that God's patience is meant to lead us toward repentance. Why do we sometimes put off making changes we know we need to make? What are some practical ways to become more responsive to God's leading?

5. How can we enjoy life when circumstances seem unfair? What's the difference between choosing to experience joy and simply ignoring or pretending our problems don't exist?

For Additional Study

Romans 12:17–21

Paul calls believers not to repay evil with evil, but to leave room for God's justice and overcome evil with good.

Questions:

- What is the difference between pursuing what is right and trying to personally repay someone for the wrong they have done?
- How can we overcome evil with good without ignoring wrongdoing or abandoning healthy boundaries?

James 1:16–17

James reminds us that every good and perfect gift comes from God, whose goodness does not change.

Questions:

- Why can it be difficult to recognize God's good gifts during seasons of disappointment or injustice?
- What is one gift or relationship in your life that you want to be more intentional about appreciating this week?