



“Cast Your Bread”
22nd in “The Good Life” Series
Ecclesiastes 11:1-6 p. 559
June 25, 2017
Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this passage God commands us to be bold and creative as we do the work of gospel ministry.

The Text: Ecclesiastes 11:1-6

1) The ministry of the gospel requires a providence-trusting boldness and diversity (vv. 1-2).

2) Your ministry should be driven not by a fear of failure but by a fear of God (vv. 3-4).

3) Be bold for Christ, for you do not know what God is going to accomplish (vv. 5-6).

Response

- Be bold, Christian! Cast your bread!

Sermon Questions for Ecclesiastes 11:1-6

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- 1) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 2) V. 1 begins with an expression that is a reference to business/trade and the risk and reward involved in being bold for the sake of profit/gain. How does a new business or company have to be bold and even take risks so that “after many days” it might profit/gain?
- 3) Clearly God is talking about spiritual business (the ministry of the gospel) and not a coffee shop, for example. How does spiritual business require taking risks in order to see gospel-based success?
- 4) Maybe we should ask this: What is gospel-oriented success, or what is “profit/gain” for a church? Make sure your answer is driven by Scripture and not free-market, corporate categories.
- 5) V. 2 suggests that our spiritual business should not only be bold (v. 1) but also diverse. Why should a church (or an individual Christian) try lots of different, creative things in order to share the gospel and raise up disciples?
- 6) Vv. 3-4 warn us that if we fail to act and invest with boldness in our spiritual business, we will fail to do productive work. What makes Christians (or churches) hesitant to act boldly and diversely in ministry?
- 7) Vv. 5-6 exhorts you to be bold for Christ, even when you do not know what results God will bring about. Why do we continue to have children when we cannot grasp the miracle of life (v. 5), and yet we are hesitant to try gospel-related things with a similar amount of knowledge?
- 8) Why do we take risks in our companies, marriage, having kids, buying houses, and taking on student loans, etc., and yet take small or no risk for the sake of Christ?
- 9) What are some ways this text exhorts you to be bold in your individual or family’s spiritual business (e.g., neighbors, co-workers, fellow students, etc.)? What steps will you commit to take?
- 10) What are some ways this text exhorts you to be bold in our church’s spiritual business (e.g., serving, getting in a small group, becoming a member, etc.)? What steps will you commit to take?

Further study this week: Luke 12:8-21 on not hoarding but using (Mon); Luke 19:11-27 on being faithful with what you have been given (Tues); Phil 2:1-11 on humility and service (Wed); Matt 25:14-20 on using your talents and treasures (Thurs); Matt 25:31-46 on judgment of those who fail to act (Fri).