



Wisdom for Uncertain Times

Ecclesiastes 11:1-6

Ship your grain across the sea; after many days you may receive a return. ² Invest in seven ventures, yes, in eight; you do not know what disaster may come upon the land. ³ If clouds are full of water, they pour rain on the earth. Whether a tree falls to the south or to the north, in the place where it falls, there it will lie. ⁴ Whoever watches the wind will not plant; whoever looks at the clouds will not reap. ⁵ As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother's womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things. ⁶ Sow your seed in the morning, and at evening let your hands not be idle, for you do not know which will succeed, whether this or that, or whether both will do equally well.

Ecclesiastes 11:1–6 (NIV)

¹Cast your bread on the surface of the waters, for you will find it after many days. ²Divide your portion to seven, or even to eight, for you do not know what misfortune may occur on the earth. ³If the clouds are full, they pour out rain upon the earth; and whether a tree falls toward the south or toward the north, wherever the tree falls, there it lies. ⁴He who watches the wind will not sow and he who looks at the clouds will not reap. ⁵Just as you do not know the path of the wind and how bones are formed in the womb of the pregnant woman, so you do not know the activity of God who makes all things. ⁶Sow your seed in the morning and do not be idle in the evening, for you do not know whether morning or evening sowing will succeed, or whether both of them alike will be good.

Ecclesiastes 11:1–6 (NASB)

Sermon Question: How Does One Live in Uncertain Times?

Exercise Faith. Be Generous. 11:1-2

Exercise Faith. Act in a Timely Manner..... 11:3-5

Exercise Wisdom. Be Productive Day and Night. 11:6

Live It!

- Seek the Lord!

- Serve Others!

- Sow Seeds!

Open It

Are you a person who plays it safe or takes a risk? What is the greatest risk you have taken? How did it turn out?

Consider It

What are the possible interpretations of casting your bread upon the waters (11:1)?

What are the principles taught in this passage (11:1-6)?

11:1

11:2

11:3-5

11:6

What else does God's word teach about generosity?

What things do we not know (11:2, 5, 6)?

What do you know to be true about the works of God from the whole of Scripture and your own life experience?

How did the lack of knowledge or uncertainties hinder taking necessary action (11:3-5)?

What uncertainties do we face today?

What hinders churches from exercising faith and taking calculated risks?

What do we learn from the sowing metaphor (Galatians 6:7-10 and Mark 4:13-20)?

How can we invest our temporal resources for eternal purposes?