

"BAD TAKES"

Life Group discussion questions, week 5

KEY PASSAGES:

Ecclesiastes 12:1-3 Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, "I find no pleasure in them", before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars grow dark, and the clouds return after the rain, when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men stoop, when the grinders cease because they are few, and those looking through the windows grow dim.

Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom

Psalms 90:12 Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom.

Ecclesiastes 12:5 Before you become fearful of falling and worry about danger in the streets; before your hair turns white like an almond tree in bloom, and you drag along without energy like a dying grasshopper, and desire and appetite fail. Remember him before you near the grave, your everlasting home, when the mourners will weep at your funeral.

Matthew 20:26-28 "Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Romans 12:10 Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

Exodus 20:3 you shall have no other Gods before me.

QUESTIONS:

1. Share some of the first times you started to realize you're not as young as you once were.
2. If you were to give important, even eternally significant advice to your younger self, what's one thing you would say?
3. Similarly, if you were coaching / advising a group of younger people, what's one thing from your younger years you would tell them "don't do what I did"?
4. Many sociologists and psychologists point to a continually rising cultural trend of placing self at the center of everything. In her book "The Narcissism Epidemic", Dr. Jean Twenge interviews many young adults, graduate students, and young professionals... with a common finding being quotes like this: "I do what's best for me. Nothing else matters. I have to make me happy. I have to do what's best for myself in every situation, and I won't apologize for that."
 - a. Do you see this view prevalent in our society? Share an example where you've seen or experienced this view lived out firsthand.
 - b. In light of scripture and the mission of Jesus, what are your thoughts about the value of this view?
5. Ecclesiastes 12:1 reads "Remember your Creator in the days of your youth." Regarding the Hebrew word translated as 'remember', author and Old Testament scholar Derek Kidner observes "To *remember him* is no perfunctory or purely mental act; it is to drop our pretense of self-sufficiency and to commit ourselves decisively to and for Him." What does this communicate to you?
6. As your group prepares to close in prayer together, what is one thing / area where you suspect you need to be more purposeful about "remembering" (to act decisively for and because of) your Creator?