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Week 6 | Mist | February 14

Key Focus: Ordinary life is good and being redeemed.

Opening Up:

Do you have a bucket list? What is on the list?

If you were to put your bucket list in order of priority (not necessarily ease of accomplishment) what would be your top item?

How would you describe the nature of your bucket list? Are you a thrill seeker, a relationship junky, or you really experiential? Do you need people for your bucket list, or can they be done alone?

Reference: Ecclesiastes 9, 12

Discuss:

1. Why does life seem to go by faster when you get older?
2. In 12:13 the preacher says the end of the matter is to "fear God." What advantage is there to you when you fear God more than anything else? What is the disadvantage of fearing work, people, or the future?
3. In 12:1 we are told to remember our creator while we are young. What advantage is there to knowing God early in life?
4. Have you ever chased the creation and forsaken the creator? What in creation has wrongly preoccupied you?
5. In 12:3-5 the preacher describes old age. What does old age feel like? The preacher uses the metaphors of something precious and useful being broken in 12:6. How is this true about death and old age?
6. When a good father gives a gift to a child, the reward is the child's smile and laughter. How does knowing God as a father help you to relate to him? Did you know that he loves your smile?
7. In chapter 9:7-10 we see that God loves it when you love your spouse. God loves it when you eat and drink and get dressed up and smell good. God loves ordinary dinner parties. He loves parties so much that he tells us heaven is like a wedding feast. How does knowing this about God change the way you eat and drink?
8. Dinner with friends or a date night with your spouse is like a dress rehearsal of the kingdom to come. How can a Christian put their focus on God during a dinner party and give thanks to him? How do we stop worshiping the creation and instead worship the creator?
9. Pray.