

Art, The Human Spirit, and Ecclesiastes

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Chalice Lighting Words:

To every thing there is a season.
A time to be born, a time to die
A time to plant, and time to reap,
A time to kill
A time to heal,
A time to break down,
A time to build up.
A time to weep,
A time to laugh,
A time to more,
A time to dance.

Intro

What is a proverb?

Little poems and nuggets of wisdom, false and true, that have become part of our cultural vocabulary. On many occasions when people invoke proverbs in speech and writing, they simply allude to them, rather than complete them. If someone offers you a fruit and says, "An apple a day," the communication will fail if you don't know the relevant proverb; you will be an outsider. (Hirsch, Jr. E.D. et al. *The New Dictionary of Cultural Literacy*. Houghton Mifflin Company 2002.)

Have you ever heard some of these proverbs?

Don't give up the ship

Don't hide your light under a bushel

Don't judge a book by its cover

Don't lock the stable door after the horse has been stolen

Don't look a gift horse in the mouth

Don't put all your eggs in one basket

Don't put the cart before the horse

Don't throw out the baby with the bath water

The early bird catches the worm

Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise

East is East, and West is West, and never the twain

Easy come, easy go

Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die

shall meet

Every cloud has a silver lining

Experience is the best teacher

Finders keepers, losers weepers

Every dog has his day

Familiarity breeds contempt

Fish or cut bait

Everybody will be world famous for fifteen minutes

Feed a cold; starve a fever

Fish out of water

Discussion

- The book of proverbs and Ecclesiastes are called wisdom literature.
- What is wisdom?
- It is said that Solomon wrote the book of proverbs.
- Can you remember the story of Wise King Solomon?

Pass out Bibles.

Many people use Proverbs as a daily study and guide to increase their wisdom and understanding. There are 31 chapters to Proverbs so reading one chapter a day, allows readers to complete the book of Proverbs in one month, but it is common for people to continue to read one chapter a day as part of their daily routine. (Wikipedia)

In the society of ancient Israel, the family played an important role in the upbringing and education of children. Some internal evidence hints to the use of Proverbs in a family setting; the phrase "my son" appears some 20 times throughout the book. The role of the mother is also listed some 10 times.

Have class look up and discuss these proverbs:

Ch 13, v. 11

Ch 24 v 24

Ch 15 v. 1

Ch 20 v. 13

Ch 20 v 29

Read intro in Ecclesiastes book

Find verse in Bible. Ecclesiastes, ch 3, v 1-8

Play Pete Seeger, "Turn, Turn, Turn."

Read book on Ecclesiastes

Note places from book on world map.

Discussion Questions

1. How can you predict the right season for anything? How can you know when it is a season for hate or for love?
2. Why would God create a season for evil?
3. The message of Ecclesiastes is: "You can't do anything to change the future, so relax."

Closing Words:

A time to keep

A time to cast away,

A time to love and a time to hate

A time of war, I swear it's not too late.

There is a time and a purpose to our lives and to the world around us.