

Travel & moving involve a lot of uncertainty and risk

How do you respond to the uncertainties & risks?



1

Travel & moving involve a lot of uncertainty and risk

How do you respond to the uncertainties & risks?

→ Overprepare



2

Travel & moving involve a lot of uncertainty and risk

How do you respond to the uncertainties & risks?

→ **Underprepare**



3

Travel & moving involve a lot of uncertainty and risk

How do you respond to the uncertainties & risks?

→ **Worry**



4

Travel & moving involve a lot of uncertainty and risk

How do you respond to the uncertainties & risks?

→ **Give up**



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Following God involves risk...

→ How do we respond?

→ **How should we respond?**



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Knowing the Future and Living Today

Ecclesiastes 11:1-6

ref.ly/Ecc11;niv



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The Sea

Ancient Israelites were afraid of the sea

- A symbol of chaos and evil
- "Coastlands" and "Islands" meant "the ends of the earth"
- Travel by ship was very risky
 - Jonah
 - Paul

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1 Kings 10:22

The king [Solomon] had a fleet of trading ships at sea along with the ships of Hiram. Once every three years it returned, carrying gold, silver and ivory, and apes and baboons.

An expression of extravagant success

- Very risky to trade by sea
- No communication for 3 years!
- But when it worked, there was a big reward

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Ecclesiastes 11:1-2

- ¹ 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.

Maybe 7 or 8 different ships (reduce risk)
Take risks, yet wisely, and you'll get a reward

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Ecclesiastes 11:3-4

³ If clouds are full of water, they pour rain on the earth. **Merism: any direction**
 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.

**Nature is unpredictable and unchangeable
 Trying to "outsmart" nature to get rid of risk
 doesn't work
 Not planting or reaping is complete disaster!!**

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Ecclesiastes 11:5-6

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.

Merism: always be diligent in doing what is right

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The Main Point

The uncertainties of life are no excuse
for failing to do good
with wisdom, courage, and perseverance

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Luke 19:11-27

¹¹ While they were listening to this, he went on to tell them a parable, because he was near Jerusalem and the people thought that the kingdom of God was going to appear at once. ¹² He said: "A man of noble birth went to a distant country to have himself appointed king and then to return. ¹³ So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas. 'Put this money to work,' he said, 'until I come back.'

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14 "But his subjects hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, 'We don't want this man to be our king.'

15 "He was made king, however, and returned home. Then he sent for the servants to whom he had given the money, in order to find out what they had gained with it.

15

16 "The first one came and said, 'Sir, your mina has earned ten more.'

17 "'Well done, my good servant!' his master replied. 'Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.'

18 "The second came and said, 'Sir, your mina has earned five more.'

19 "His master answered, 'You take charge of five cities.'

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²⁰ "Then another servant came and said, 'Sir, here is your mina; I have kept it laid away in a piece of cloth. ²¹ **I was afraid of you, because you are a hard man. You take out what you did not put in and reap what you did not sow.**'

²² "His master replied, 'I will judge you by your own words, you **wicked servant!** You knew, did you, that I am a hard man, taking out what I did not put in, and reaping what I did not sow? ²³ Why then didn't you put my money on deposit, so that when I came back, I could have collected it with interest?'

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²⁴ "Then he said to those standing by, 'Take his mina away from him and give it to the one who has ten minas.'

²⁵ "'Sir,' they said, 'he already has ten!'

²⁶ "He replied, 'I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but as for the one who has nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ²⁷ But **those enemies of mine who did not want me to be king over them**—bring them here and kill them in front of me.'"

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The Main Point

The uncertainties of life are no excuse for failing to do good **and to obey God** with wisdom, courage, and perseverance

Failing to do good and obey God because of risk is...

- disobedience
- denying the goodness of God

"No one who hopes in you will ever be put to shame" Psalm 25:3a

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When God gives us instructions,
He doesn't promise that...

- It will be easy
 - Forgiving people might hurt us
 - Loving our enemies might be costly
 - Sharing the Gospel might bring rejection
 - Being generous might leave us poorer
- *Although these things **might** not happen*

God does promise...

- relationship with Him
- His good work, even in trouble
- eventual reward for following Him

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The Main Point

The uncertainties of life are no excuse for failing to do good **and to obey God** with wisdom, courage, and perseverance

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Application

Do what God calls us to do with wisdom and courage and perseverance

- If we only obey when the risks are low, we're questioning God's authority & goodness

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What might God be asking us to do?

Forgive

Let go of possessions we are clinging to

Love our enemies and bless those who curse us

Seek help to battle a sin that keeps tripping us up

Have a conversation we've been avoiding

Share the Gospel with someone

Change the course of our lives

Use a gift from God that is new to us

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Application

Do what God calls us to do with wisdom and courage and perseverance

- If we only obey when the risks are low, we're questioning God's authority & goodness
- "Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; **be courageous; be strong.**" *1 Corinthians 16:13*
- "Finally, **be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.**" *Ephesians 6:10*

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Application

Do what God calls us to do with wisdom and courage and perseverance

Trust God through the ups and downs of following Him

- If we only obey when the risks are low...
 - we won't "plant or reap"
 - we'll miss God's good work
 - we'll miss the rewards God promises

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The Main Point

The uncertainties of life are no excuse for failing to do good **and to obey God** with wisdom, courage, and perseverance

In Matthew's telling of the parable:

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'" Matthew 25:23

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