

Introduction:

1. What are some things on your bucket list?
2. If you could find out the exact date of your death from Deathclock.com, how would you prioritize your bucket list?

Understanding:

3. Read verse 2. All through the Old Testament, there's a distinction made between the righteous and the wicked. There's a difference between people who are spiritually "clean" in God's eyes, and people who are "unclean." Does Solomon agree?
4. Read verse 7-8. Pastor Dave spoke of Jacques Maritain, a 77-year young man, who actually skipped on a hilltop in France overwhelmed with the joy of life. Describe a time or two when you were overwhelmed with the gift of life, and the privilege of being rather than not being?
5. Pastor Dave referred to a New York Times editorial piece by David Brooks, where he compared "resume virtues" to "eulogy virtues". What are the differences?
6. In a graduation address at Stanford University, Steve Jobs said, "Remembering that I'll be dead soon is the most important tool I've ever encountered to help me make the big choices in life. Because almost everything – all external expectations, all pride, all fear of embarrassment or failure – these things just fall away in the face of death, leaving only what is truly important." Can you relate? How does the awareness of death help you make big choices in life?
7. Read Luke 12:39-40. What is the simple message from Jesus?
8. Read Luke 12:42-43. What do you think Jesus is talking about?
9. There are certain ways we know we're supposed to live, right? Why do people struggle with being held accountable?
10. How is viewing death "under the sun", or removing the spiritual element, different than viewing death as a Christian?
11. Read Philippians 1:21 & 2 Timothy 4:6-8. How did Paul feel about death? Why did he feel this way?

Application:

12. The fact that we could stand face-to-face with God at any moment should fill us with this sense of accountability. What we do matters so much – because God cares. Is there something in your life right now that you would be ashamed of if Jesus returned today? Its time to repent of whatever that is. Do it out of awe and respect for him, and a love and gratitude for what he's done for us in Christ.
13. Life is so fragile, and death is absolutely certain. So seize the day! Live with passion! But never forget that, because of Christ, what comes after death is even better than what came before.