

Ecclesiastes 9:11

I again saw under the sun that the race is not to the swift and the battle is not to the warriors, and neither is bread to the wise nor wealth to the discerning nor favor to men of ability; for time and chance overtake them all.

One cannot predict _____ and _____ an accident will happen.

Those who are gifted and talented do not always come out on top because of _____.

Ecclesiastes 9:12

Moreover, man does not know his time: like fish caught in a treacherous net and birds trapped in a snare, so the sons of men are ensnared at an evil time when it suddenly falls on them.

In the same way fish and birds cannot know when they will get caught and trapped, we cannot _____ when timely accidents will come in our lives.

Ecclesiastes 9:13-15

Also this I came to see as wisdom under the sun, and it impressed me. There was a small city with few men in it and a great king came to it, surrounded it and constructed large siegeworks against it. But there was found in it a poor wise man and he delivered the city by his wisdom. Yet no one remembered that poor man.

The "poor wise man" was a wise person who was not part of the _____ in the city.

The citizens _____ have listened to the poor man's wisdom and saved their city, but they _____ because he was a nobody.

Ecclesiastes 9:16-18

So I said, "Wisdom is better than strength." But the wisdom of the poor man is despised and his words are not heeded. The words of the wise heard in quietness are better than the shouting of a ruler among fools. Wisdom is better than weapons of war, but one sinner destroys much good.

Everyone says Wisdom is better than strength, but in the end, each goes with the one who is more _____ and speaks _____.

1. We should _____ pursue wisdom, but we must make _____ for God's timely accidents.
2. Every timely accident is according to God's great _____.
3. God knows we don't control timely accidents, so he asks us to _____ him.

DIGGING DEEPER

(for group study and conversation, and for personal reflection)

- How do you tell a wise person from an unwise person?
- How do you understand “time and chance”?
- What are some of the things for which you are glad about “time and chance” in our world? What are some of the things that make you are unhappy about it?
- Why did the citizens despise the poor man’s wisdom?
- Where in today’s world do you see someone’s idea or suggestion being overlooked even though what he had to say seemed good? What do you suppose was the reason?
- What was the big idea of the short story of the “small city with few men in it”? What was the big idea for the entire passage? Were they different? Or the same?

