

## Wisdom Within Authority

### Ecclesiastes 8:1-8

#### I. Conduct Before Authority (2-4)

##### A. Be Obedient (2)

##### B. Be Cautious (3-4)

#### II. Conduct Through Life (5-8)

##### A. Wisdom Is the Foundation (5)

##### B. Resignation Is the Medium (6-7)

##### C. Mortality Is the Boundary (8)

### Ecclesiastes 8:1-8

<sup>1</sup> Who *is* like a wise *man*? And who knows the interpretation of a thing? A man's wisdom makes his face shine, And the sternness of his face is changed. <sup>2</sup> I *say*, "Keep the king's commandment for the sake of your oath to God. <sup>3</sup> Do not be hasty to go from his presence. Do not take your stand for an evil thing, for he does whatever pleases him." <sup>4</sup> Where the word of a king *is*, *there is* power; And who may say to him, "What are you doing?" <sup>5</sup> He who keeps his command will experience nothing harmful; And a wise man's heart discerns both time and judgment, <sup>6</sup> Because for every matter there is a time and judgment, Though the misery of man increases greatly. <sup>7</sup> For he does not know what will happen; So who can tell him when it will occur? <sup>8</sup> No one has power over the spirit to retain the spirit, And no one has power in the day of death. *There is* no release from that war, And wickedness will not deliver those who are given to it.

### Small Group Questions

1. What are some of the various levels of authority we will me in our lives and how do they exert power over us?
2. Share some examples of when there was no clear Law to follow, but a moral choice had to be made. How did you arrive at that choice?
3. How can we give up our desire to control the outcomes of our lives, big and small?