

The End of the Matter – Ecclesiastes

Ecclesiastes 5:8-6:12

“Loving Money” – October 20, 2019



Introduction

We tend to think more options means more freedom because it affords us the ability to customize our life and live with sense of control. But sometimes, the abundance of choices money can buy leaves us paralyzed in indecision (what if I miss out on something?), having expectations where we see good as something owed to us, and discontent. In our text this morning, the Preacher shows us where to find true contentment.

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Sermon Outline

- I. Stop chasing the mirage of wealth (5:8-17; 6:1-9)
- II. Run to the well that holds living water (5:18-20; 6:10-12)

Read & Discuss

- 1) Read [Ecclesiastes 5:8-17; 6:1-9](#)

Here in chapter 5, the Preacher warns about the empty promises of greed: Money doesn't satisfy ([5:10](#)); more money means more people there to take what you have ([v11](#)); wealth leaves you anxious ([v12](#)); wealth is easily lost ([v14](#)); you can't take it with you ([v15](#)). What are ways you're tempted to chase the mirage of wealth and all it promises? How do the warnings of the Preacher aid as a wakeup call to what is true?

In our gathering on Sunday we read from [1 Timothy 6:17-19](#). Here, Paul talks about how our generosity and being rich in good deeds is a way we can set our hope in God (not riches) and to break free from the grip money can have on our hearts. What are ways you can set your hope on God by growing in generosity with the time, talents, and treasure God has entrusted to you?

*One resource we talked about is Randy Alcorn's [Treasure Principle: Unlocking the secret of joyful giving](#)

Additional Reading: Matthew 6:19-24; Matthew 19:16-30

- 2) Read [Ecclesiastes 5:18-20; 6:10-12](#)

Instead of chasing the mirage of contentment being found in wealth and what it can buy, we are to find contentment in our relationship with God. In John's Gospel, Jesus talks about this at several points (John 4:13-14, 6:36, 7:37-38). We don't follow an equation or formula for contentment, we learn it in cultivating our relationship with God.

One reason for this is contentment (joy in whatever circumstance) comes as we learn to accept our lot – not as a passive resignation to fate, but trusting God's sovereign hand. We tend to think joy is found in changing our lot but it is found in knowing God *where we are*. What is your lot (or as chapter 3 refers to it, *your season*)? What are the good things that you've taken for granted that you can thank God for? What are the challenging things you need to go to God with in prayer? Take some time to do so now...

Additional Reading: Philippians 4:10-13, Psalm 16

Prayer of Response

- 1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?
- 2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

*Next week's sermon text: we turn to Ecclesiastes 7:1-14 "Choose Wisdom"
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