

AROUND THE DINNER TABLE

05/01: Ecclesiastes 5:8-6:9

In this week's passage, Solomon looks at being consumed by wealth.

Describe a time when you poured countless hours and resources into something, only to be disappointed – either by lack of success or lack of contentment.

Discuss the relation between striving after wealth, power, or status, and receiving them as a gift.

Read aloud Luke 12:13-34.

What are the top 3-5 things you tend to worry/be anxious about? Why do you think that is?

Take a moment to describe a way God is faithfully providing for you today. Describe a way that he has been faithful to provide in the past.

WEEKLY PRAYER FOCUS

Adapted from Rachel Jones' *5 Things to Pray* series.

Dear Lord, please give me great joy in
WHAT YOU HAVE GIVEN ME

Read Psalm 16:6

Give thanks for the things God has given you that you take delight in – big or small. List as many as you can! Pray for greater contentment for what you have.

NEXT STEPS

Interested in Membership or Baptism?

Contact Trent Jones at tjones@linworthbaptist.org or the church office.

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LOVE GOD,
LOVE PEOPLE,
SHARE CHRIST... *more*

May 1, 2022

SERMON PASSAGE

Ecclesiastes 5:8 – 6:9 (ESV)

⁸ If you see in a province the oppression of the poor and the violation of justice and righteousness, do not be amazed at the matter, for the high official is watched by a higher, and there are yet higher ones over them. ⁹ But this is gain for a land in every way: a king committed to cultivated fields. ¹⁰ He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity. ¹¹ When goods increase, they increase who eat them, and what advantage has their owner but to see them with his eyes? ¹² Sweet is the sleep of a laborer, whether he eats little or much, but the full stomach of the rich will not let him sleep. ¹³ There is a grievous evil that I have seen under the sun: riches were kept by their owner to his hurt, ¹⁴ and those riches were lost in a bad venture. And he is father of a son, but he has nothing in his hand. ¹⁵ As he came from his mother's womb he shall go again, naked as he came, and shall take nothing for his toil that he may carry away in his hand. ¹⁶ This also is a grievous evil: just as he came, so shall he go, and what gain is there to him who toils for the wind? ¹⁷ Moreover, all his days he eats in darkness in much vexation and sickness and anger. ¹⁸ Behold, what I have seen to be good and fitting is to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of his life that God has given him, for this is his lot. ¹⁹ Everyone also to whom God has given wealth and possessions and power to enjoy them, and to accept his lot and rejoice in his toil—this is the gift of God. ²⁰ For he will not much remember the days of his life because God keeps him occupied with joy in his heart.

6 There is an evil that I have seen under the sun, and it lies heavy on mankind: ² a man to whom God gives wealth, possessions, and honor, so that he lacks nothing of all that he desires, yet God does not give him power to enjoy them, but a stranger enjoys them. This is vanity; it is a grievous evil. ³ If a man fathers a hundred children and lives many years, so that the days of his years are many, but his soul is not satisfied with life's good things, and he also has no burial, I say that a stillborn child is better off than he. ⁴ For it comes in vanity and goes in darkness, and in darkness its name is covered. ⁵ Moreover, it has not seen the sun or known anything, yet it finds rest rather than he. ⁶ Even though he should live a thousand years twice over, yet enjoy no good—do not all go to the one place? ⁷ All the toil of man is for his mouth, yet his appetite is not satisfied. ⁸ For what advantage has the wise man over the fool? And what does the poor man have who knows how to conduct himself before the living? ⁹ Better is the sight of the eyes than the wandering of the appetite: this also is vanity and a striving after wind.

SERMON NOTES

May 1, 2022: Pastor Brent Miller

Passage: Ecclesiastes 5:8 – 6:9

Sermon Title:

Ecclesiastes: Finding Meaning in a Meaningless World

Sermon Notes

FURTHER STUDY THIS WEEK

TAKING A CLOSER LOOK

Whether you are meeting with someone this week or you are getting into the Word on your own, we encourage you to work through these questions as you take a deeper look at the sermon passage from this week, or as you dig deeper into the "Read the Bible in Two Years" reading plan that we are currently working through as a church.



1. What are 1-2 things that "shine" from this passage? Whatever impacts the most or draws attention.



2. What are 1-2 things that are difficult to understand in the text, or a question that you would like to ask the writer of the passage or the Lord?



3. What is the central idea of the passage?



4. What are 1-2 personal applications for your own life?



5. With a friend: Find out what is going on in each other's lives. What has been their greatest joy this week? Greatest challenge this week and how they've handled it? What is one area each of you could pray about for each other as it relates to growing with your relationship with the Lord, a spouse, child or friend?

May Memory Verse

Romans 5:21

so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.