

OUTLINE

1. Wisdom disconnected from Jesus will leave you empty.
2. Pleasure disconnected from Jesus is limited.
3. Life disconnected from Jesus will never satisfy.

REVIEW

READ Ecclesiastes 1:12-2:11

OBSERVE

1. What is pursued in Ecclesiastes 1:12-18, and what are the results of that pursuit?
2. What is pursued in Ecclesiastes 2:1-11, how is it pursued, and what are the results of that pursuit?
3. How do you define wisdom? Is there a difference between how the world defines wisdom versus how the Bible defines wisdom? (Read Proverbs 9:10; James 3:13-18; 1 Corinthians 1:18-21)

INTERPRET

1. Why does the Preacher find wisdom empty (1:15, 18), and pleasure limited (2:11)?
2. How does a relationship with God through Jesus give meaning to wisdom and pleasure?

ASSESS

1. Assess the inputs to your life through the wisdom pyramid: with which source of wisdom and knowledge do you spend the most time interacting? What changes might be needed to align with Proverbs 9:10?
2. What do you currently feel most tempted to use as a treatment for your frustration? What underlying beliefs about yourself and God lead you to try and find relief in that specific activity?
3. What are you doing to intentionally and regularly connect with Jesus? How is it changing you?
4. When have you experienced joy connected to Jesus? How was it different from other forms of joy?

NOTES

DIG DEEPER

Weekly Reading Plan

1 Kings 3
1 Kings 8
1 Kings 11
Esther 1-5
Esther 6-10

MUTUAL MINISTRY

APPLY

1. Are there ways you find yourself pursuing wisdom or pleasure that lead you away from Jesus? How do you need to change or stop these pursuits?
2. What practical step can you take to connect your pursuit of wisdom to Jesus?
3. Every good gift comes from God. As you go through this week, how can you respond to moments of pleasure with worship and gratitude to God?
4. There is a paradox of pleasure: the more you search for it under the sun, the less of it you find. Read Psalm 16. What would it look like for you today to experience a greater satisfaction in God than any pleasure the world under the sun offers you? After discussing, go to God in prayer, asking that He would satisfy you.
5. Are there any other steps of obedience God is calling you to from the sermon?

I WILL

WILL

We are a group of people growing together to be more like Jesus by loving one another ... forgiving one another ... serving one another ... submitting to one another ... being devoted to one another ... encouraging one another ... and living on God's mission.