



Dig Deeper @Home – “Searching for Meaning”

Complement to sermon on October 9, 2016 – “In the American Dream”

MEMORIZE – Ecclesiastes 12:13

The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of all people.

READ Ecclesiastes 2:1-26

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. What is this passage revealing about God and what is it revealing about us as humans?
2. If the above is true, what needs to change in your life? What will that look like?
3. Read verses 1-10 again and list all the things that the Preacher did to find pleasure.
 - a. What have you done to find pleasure?
4. In verse 10 the Preacher says that his reward for all his toil was finding pleasure in all his toil. However, after considering what he has done, he concludes that all his toil was vanity. What is his reason for this conclusion?
5. The Preacher goes a step further and in verse 18 says that he “hated all his toil.” He goes from finding pleasure in his toil, to seeing it as vanity (hebel), and now he outright hates his toil. What has caused him to hate it?
6. In verse 22, the Preacher asks, “what has a man from all the toil and striving of heart with which he toils beneath the sun?” and concludes that “work is a vexation.” What does vexation mean? Is it possible for work not to be a vexation? If so, how? Is your work currently a vexation? What can you do to change that?

Bottom Line - Give a one or two sentence summary of the scripture:

Experiential

Sometimes activities help us to understand and process biblical truths. The ones below are suggestions for how to experience the truths of Ecclesiastes 2. Feel free to use one of these or any you might come up with.

From Vexed to Blessed

Now that you looked up and know what vexation means (hint: it means irritation or annoyance) take time and honestly answer this question, “what in your life right now brings vexation?” This could be at school, at home, in your family, at work, at church, etc. After identifying these vexations, pray to God asking Him to do Ecclesiastes 2:25-like work in your life. Verse 25 says, “for apart from Him (God) who can eat or who can have enjoyment?” Ask Christ to transform your vexings to blessings. Ask Him what you can do to be a part of that transformation. Put another way, what would Jesus have you do? Because we know that true joy comes from “fearing God and obeying His commands.”

SING (a suggested song to sing. Use this or any song you might want to sing)

Lead Us, O Father – Mennonite Hymnal #317

Use this as a prayer knowing that without God’s help, we cannot and most likely will not renounce the ungodliness and worldly passions in our life.

I have Decided to Follow Jesus - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S8jvfdDtoqY>

An anthem to persevere in our decision to follow Jesus

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

Sending prayer based on the lesson: Lord, as we go through our day, help us live with purpose and meaning, guide our eyes to those who need you, guide our ears to be drawn to those crying out for help, and give us the boldness to introduce those around us to you Jesus, Amen.