



Dig Deeper @Home – “Searching for Meaning”
Complement to sermon on October 16, 2016 – “In Justice”

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 3:16 – 4:3

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. Verse 16 talks about the “place of justice.” What is the place of justice? What is the wickedness that is present at this place? (hint: Isaiah 5:23 gives a description)
4. In response to wickedness in the place of justice we rightly respond “that’s not fair.” We want justice and we want things set right. But what about our part of the injustice? What does v17 remind us? What is an appropriate response to this reality?
5. Chapter 3 ends with two major questions: “who knows whether the spirit of man goes upward?” and “who can bring him to see what will be after him?” In other words, what happens when we die? How does God coming in the flesh as Christ give a powerful answer to these questions?
6. The phrase “no one to comfort them” is repeated twice in 4:1.
 - a. Who has no one to comfort them? Why not?
 - b. How does the reality of Christ change this? (hint: see Ephesians 1:20-23)
 - c. As His followers, what does this mean for us?

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 3:16-4:3. Feel free to use one of these or any you might come up with.

See a need fill a need

In the movie "Robots" Rodney Copperbottom is a robot raised from a lower class but with dreams to change the world. His father teaches him from early on that to that you need to be someone who if they see a need, fill the need. Every day, identify a need and fill it. Maybe there is trash on the ground. Pick it up and throw it out. Maybe there is a toy left out. Put it back where it belongs. Maybe there is someone feeling left out or being picked on. Invite them to join in what you are doing. This week, let's be the righteousness and justice that God calls us to be and empowers us to be.

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

Build your Kingdom Here - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vh_8rTBpvRU

No matter what we face we can sing praises to our great God through Christ

Mennonite Hymnal #434 – God of Grace and God of Glory

A wonderful hymn helping to put to words what we need most when facing the evils of this world: wisdom and courage from God. Let that be your prayer and desire as you sing this song.

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 be your agents of justice and righteousness, Amen.