



Dig Deeper @Home – “Searching for Meaning”

Complement to sermon on November 6, 2016 – “In Politics”

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 5: 8-20

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. Look again at verses 10-12. Why will the full stomach of the rich not let him sleep while the laborer is able to sleep whether his stomach is empty or full?
4. What does it mean to have “riches kept by their owner to his hurt?” When do riches hurt? How do we keep from being hurt by our riches?
5. In v16, Solomon talks about “toiling for the wind.” What does it mean to toil for the wind? If there is no gain in toiling for the wind, how are we to toil (work)?
6. Read again v20. What causes the joy in our heart? What does it mean that this joy will keep us from remembering the days of our lives? Isn't it a good thing to remember? What is the point Solomon is trying to make?

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

Experiential

Sometimes activities help us to understand and process biblical truths. The one below is a suggestion for how to experience the truths of Ecclesiastes 5: 8-20. Feel free to use one of these or any you might come up with.

Toiling for the Wind

For this activity you will need a good prize (like a jumbo candy bar) and a fan. Have whoever wants to try to compete to win the prize. They will have a minute to collect as much wind from the fan as they can, using only their hands. The point: they won't be able to. All of this is striving after the wind or toiling for the wind as Solomon talks about in v16. All this leads to is "much vexation, sickness and anger." After the minute, sit down and talk about how we can work in a way that leads to joy (seeing work as an opportunity to lead people to Jesus). Hand out the candy while talking about leading people to Christ because this is the true source of joy for which we toil.

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

Wanna See Jesus Lifted High - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7jdMDp6ns0>

Let this be our anthem for whatever we are doing ... going to school, shopping, hanging out with friends, etc

Mennonite Hymnal #430 – Forth in Thy Name

A great reminder that we go in Christ's name and all that we do is to be a reflection of Him.

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, grant us discernment in life, that we not toil for the wind. Give us the courage we need to proclaim you as we go, in word, in action, in thought. Help us to show those around your mercy, love and grace. For your glory and the good of those around us. Amen.