

Sermon Notes - Ecclesiastes 5:1-15

Money Money Money

Ecclesiastes 5:10-15 (The Living Bible)

Those who love money will never have enough. How stupid to think that wealth brings true happiness! The more you have, the more people come to help you spend it. So what is the advantage of wealth? Except perhaps to watch it run through your fingers! People who work hard sleep well, whether they eat little or much. But the rich are always worrying and rarely get a good night's sleep. There is another serious problem I have seen in the world... Sometimes people save riches and then are harmed because of it! Or something terrible happens and they lose everything. In the end, there is nothing left to pass on to one's children. We leave this world naked and empty-handed as on the day we were born. You can't take your earnings with you.

SOLOMON'S FIVE FINANCIAL FOLKSONGS:

1. I ALWAYS NEED MORE

"I need more, I need more, I need more, I need more, Money!"

*Whoever loves money will not be satisfied with money!
Whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income! - Ecclesiastes 5:10*

King Solomon gives one test to tell if you love money. Whoever loves money wants more. If you love money, it won't matter how much more you get – you will want more. Your soul will be sick. If you don't have enough money for basics like foods, clothes, a roof and healthcare then it will certainly make you sad. But once you have the basics for life: food, air, water, clothes, a roof, more money doesn't increase happiness.

2. I SPENT ALL MY MONEY YESTERDAY

*"Yesterday. All my money seemed to fly away. Now I'm waiting for my next pay day.
Cos I spent all my money, Yesterday."*

As goods increase, so do those who consume! - Ecclesiastes 5:11

"As income increases so does consumption..." - John Keynes (1883-1946)

Hedonic adaptation: the observed tendency of humans to quickly return to a relatively stable level of happiness despite major positive or negative events or life changes.

3. "HURRY HURRY HURRY FOR YOUR MONEY"

*Hurry hurry hurry. For more money. You can't afford to sleep
Hurry hurry hurry. Earn more money. You can't afford to sleep*

*The sleep of the labourer is sweet, even if they don't have much to eat,
But the abundance of the rich one keeps them awake at night! - Ecclesiastes 5:12*

The less we trust God and the more we try to control life, the more we will hurry, the more we will need, and the less we will sleep.

4 "CASH IN SMOKE WHEN I CROAK!"

"Cash in smoke, When I croak. Naked I came from my mother's womb, Naked I'll be buried in the tomb!"

*"Naked we all come from our mother's womb, as we arrive, so we depart!
We take nothing from our labour that can be carried in the hand." - Ecclesiastes 5:15*

5. THESE ARE A FEW OF MY "FADE AWAY" THINGS

*iPhones and TVs and cool airconditioning, Fancy Toyotas all shining and glistening,
Netflix and swimming pools, clothing and bling, These are a few of my fade away things!*

*Get it on credit and buy it today, Lovely new clothing with nothing to pay,
Fishing rods, bicycles, jewelry and rings, These are a few of my fade away things!*

*"This too is a terrible affliction: As we come, so we leave. And what do we gain?
Since we work for the wind!" - Ecclesiastes 5:16*

What we work for, just like the wind, we can't hold on to for long. So will anything ever satisfy us human beings? Will anything ever be "enough"?

WILL ANYTHING EVER BE ENOUGH?

"All our days we eat in darkness, with great frustration, trouble and anger!" - Ecclesiastes 5:17

To be truly satisfied with life, we need to look beyond physical things...

*God said to me, "My grace is enough for you for my power is made perfect in weakness."
- 2 Corinthians 12:9*

Only one thing is enough. All the money in the world cannot buy it. The richest billionaire might not have it. While the poorest on the streets of Calcutta can. This thing that is enough is GRACE – just to know you are loved. God welcomes you: with your imperfection, with your sin, with your problems. You are known deeply by God. With your mental health problems, with your imperfect body, with your history, with your secrets that no one else knows. Even in your sin. You are completely and totally loved. That is enough! Live loved.