

ECCLESIASTES 6

- REVIEW...

to

- o Under the Sun...
 - The PREACHER [Solomon] - wrote let us know...
 - Life is VANITY - everything UNDER the sun has NO purpose...

- Solomon - who had all the resources needed to try and find the ANSWER...
- Tried EVERYTHING - but found it was all grasping the WIND...
- It seemed like there was something there - but he always walked away EMPTY handed!
- o Meaning in Religion...
 - As Solomon continued his search for PURPOSE under the SUN...
 - He considered RELIGION - does coming to WORSHIP God have meaning...
 - His conclusion is that people MUST come with the right MOTIVE...
 - Because RELIGION itself is pointless [vanity] - only if we learn to FEAR God does have meaning!
- o Meaning in Politics...
 - Solomon went on to see if there was any MEANING in POLITICS...
 - The answer was a quick NO - in fact he warned us NOT to be surprised...
 - POLITICS is corrupt from the top [president] - down to the lowest official [barangay]
 - They are full of men who are looking for MONEY [that will NEVER be enough for them]
 - Because we leave this life the same way we came - EMPTY handed!
- **MONEY IS NOT THE ANSWER... vs. 1**
 - o Common Evil...
 - There is an evil which I have seen under the sun and it is common among men!
 - Solomon had SEEN [רָאָה] another EVIL [רָעָה] that was VERY [רַב] common to men [אָדָם]
 - Chapter SIX is somewhat unique in the book of Ecclesiastes...
 - As it is dedicated to a SINGLE evil that Solomon found in his search for PURPOSE...
 - It was the MOST common EVIL that he saw men chasing after - MONEY!
 - The subject of money is a divisive and often confusing issue...
 - The world is ALWAYS trying to tell us if only we had LOTS of money - we would be HAPPY...
 - Sadly this worldly view has even found its way into the church...
 - Rather than giving a Biblical perspective - many church teach a PROSPERITY gospel!
 - **I Timothy 6:5** - "[These are] men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself."
 - The Gospel is NOT about getting rich - or having a better life now...
 - If we are looking for temporal rewards in return for our obedience to Christ...
 - We might very well be disappointed – God promises us tribulation – **John 16:33**
 - The rewards for serving Jesus are far greater - they are eternal – it is about heaven!
 - o 1st – Short life... vs. 1
 - Lots of money...
 - A man to whom God has given riches and wealth and honor.
 - So that he lacks nothing for himself of all he desires!
 - As Solomon investigated the EVIL that comes from the love of MONEY - **I Timothy 6:10**
 - He gave us FOUR scenarios to demonstrate why it is USELESS [vanity]
 - FIRST - Solomon tells us about a man who has ALL the money he would ever need...
 - This man had great RICHES [עֲשָׂרָה] and POSSESSIONS [נִכְסִים] - and HONOR [כְּבוֹד]
 - NOT because he was SMARTER than others - God [אֱלֹהִים] had given [נָתַן] it to him...
 - So that there was NOTHING [אֵין] his soul [נַפְשׁ] wanted - he had it ALL [כָּל]
 - It seems a fair assumption - that Solomon is talking about himself...
 - Because God GAVE [נָתַן] him great wealth - possessions - and honor!
 - **I Kings 3:13** - "I have also given you what you have not asked: both riches and honor."
 - People who have money often assume they have EARNED their riches...
 - They boast how they went to college – got a good education...
 - Worked hard so they would be successful in their career...
 - And now as a result of all THEIR hard work – they have wealth to show for it!

- There is nothing wrong with having a good work ethic – we should work hard...
- But we do NOT get the credit for anything we accomplish in life...
- Because everything we have - we received from God - so it is NOT ours to glory over...
- Our intellect - our family - our genetics - were all given to us...
- We have NOTHING - which we have NOT received - so ALL the credit goes to God!
- **I Corinthians 4:7** - "What do you have that God has not given you?"
- Death...
 - Yet God does not give him power to eat of it - but a foreigner consumes it.
 - This is vanity and it is an evil affliction!
 - Yet God [אֱלֹהִים] did NOT [לֹא] let him enjoy all that he had been GIVEN...
 - Because life is SHORT - then he would DIE - and a STRANGER [נִכְרִי] gets all the money...
 - Therefore even having ALL the WEALTH a person would ever want...
 - Is EMPTY [vanity] - and in the end EVIL - because people do NOT last!
 - We have all heard the saying that MONEY does NOT last...
 - Solomon had the opposite take on the argument - it is the PEOPLE who do NOT last...
 - Even if we are GIVEN incredible amounts of WEALTH so we could buy ANYTHING we want...
 - We do NOT have much TIME with which to spend it...
 - Then all our MONEY just gets passed onto someone else - VANITY!
 - **James 4:14** - "What is your life? Its a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes."
- o 2nd - Long life... vs. 2-6
 - Lots of kids... vs. 2
 - If a man begets a hundred children - lives many years so that the days of his years are many.
 - SECOND - Solomon tells us about a man who was NOT satisfied...
 - IF [אִם] a man could have one HUNDRED children - and live for MANY [רַב] years!
 - Likely we are again talking about King Solomon...
 - Women can only have ONE child a year - and only for about TWENTY years...
 - Therefore - practically speaking it would take MANY wives to have a HUNDRED kids...
 - As Solomon had one THOUSAND wives - he likely had a LOT of children - **I Kings 11:3**
 - And the LORD gave him a MANY years to have all those kids - **I Kings 3:14**
 - Not Satisfied... vs. 2
 - But his soul is not satisfied with goodness - or indeed he has no burial!
 - Yet for ALL of his KIDS and his LONG years - he was NOT [לֹא] SATISFIED [שָׂבַע]
 - Because these things did NOT fill him with THE good [הַטּוֹבָה]
 - He was STILL looking for something more - up to the day he DIED...
 - One might assume - at least his HUNDRED kids would give him a good FUNERAL...
 - BUT [בִּלְבָד] - if he NEVER found the answer - what did it matter if he got buried or NOT!
 - The woman at the well in Samaria was looking for the ANSWER...
 - She had married and divorced FIVE men - and did NOT even bother to marry the SIXTH...
 - Yet for all those RELATIONSHIPS - she was still THIRSTY!
 - **John 4:13** - "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again."
 - Children are a BLESSING from God - but they are NOT the answer...
 - THE good that we are looking for cannot be found in RELATIONSHIPS...
 - We can live a LONG life [100 years] - and have MANY relationships [100 kids]
 - But there is only one GOOD that will ever satisfy our THIRST!
 - **Matthew 19:17** - "No one is good but One - that is God."
 - Time is NOT the answer... vs. 2-5
 - I say that a stillborn child is better than he.
 - For it comes in vanity and departs in darkness and its name is covered with darkness.

- Though it has not seen the sun or known anything - this has more rest than that man!
- Solomon came to the conclusion - it would have been better to have been MISCARRIED [מְסֻרָה]
- [כִּי] BECAUSE - then his birth would have meant NOTHING [vanity]
- He would have disappeared into the DARK [forgotten] - no one would know his NAME...
- Even though [גַּם] he would NEVER have seen - or even KNOWN [יָדַעַת] about the SUN...
- Since there are NO answers under the SUN - **Ecclesiastes 1:14**
- He would have had MORE rest than a man who lived MANY years!
- Two thousand years... vs. 6
 - Even if he lives a thousand years twice but has not seen goodness. Do not all go to one place?
 - Even if a man could live for a THOUSAND years - not once but TWICE...
 - That still would NOT be enough time for him to SEE [רָאָה] what is GOOD [טוֹב]
 - And in the END - after all those years - EVERYONE [כָּל] still DIES!
 - There is a mathematical problem called the Hodge conjecture...
 - Anyone who is able to solve the problem will be given FIFTY million pesos...
 - The brightest minds in the world have tried - and FAILED...
 - It would NOT matter if we had a DAY - or a THOUSAND years - we still could NOT answer it!
 - It is the same with looking for MEANING in this life...
 - No matter how much TIME someone has - how many RELATIONSHIPS they try...
 - It is NEVER going to be able to SATISFY them - so stop TRYING...
 - Because there is no GOOD answer - UNDER the SUN!
- 3rd - Always hungry... vs. 7-9
 - Never satisfied... vs. 7
 - All the labor of man is for his mouth and yet the soul is not satisfied!
 - THIRD - Solomon gives us the motivation for why men [אָדָם] WORK...
 - ALL [כָּל] that they do is to put FOOD in their mouth...
 - We all understand the NEED for FOOD - we have to eat EVERY day...
 - But [גַּם] not matter how much we EAT - our SPIRIT [נֶפֶשׁ] is NEVER full!
 - Have you ever been HUNGRY - and tried to drink water instead...
 - It will take away the HUNGER - but NOT for very long - the BODY needs CALORIES!
 - Yet people try and FILL the GOD shaped hole in their lives - with the things of this world...
 - How many times have we said – if I could only have THIS I would be happy...
 - And when we get what we WANTED – we are happy for a moment – then we want more...
 - It is because we were NOT created by God to be fulfilled by the things of this world...
 - We were created by God to KNOW Him - worship Him - **John 17:3**
 - And only when we use our life for the purpose God intended for it - are we SATISFIED!
 - Wrong kind of Food... vs. 8
 - For what more has the wise man than the fool?
 - What does the poor man have who knows how to walk before the living?
 - Since no matter how much we EAT - our SPIRIT [נֶפֶשׁ] will never be FULL...
 - WHAT [מָה] does it matter if the WISE [חָכָם] has more than the FOOL [בְּטוּל]
 - WHAT [מָה] does it matter if the POOR [עָנִי] knows [יָדַעַת] how to impress people...
 - In the END all they get is more FOOD - that CANNOT satisfy them!
 - After Jesus fed the FIVE thousand men [plus women and children]
 - The people came to Him and wanted to make him their KING...
 - They asked for Jesus to give them MANNA [what is it] like Moses did - **John 6:31**
 - **John 6:41** - "I am the bread which came down from heaven."
 - We do NOT need more FOOD - we need the RIGHT kind of FOOD [spiritual]

- We NEED to spend time with Jesus in His WORD - feed our starving SPIRIT [נִפְּשׁ]
- If we ate dinner last night - that does that mean we are NOT hungry in the morning...
- If we ate THREE meals yesterday - does that mean we do NOT need to eat today...
- People think because they went to church - they got their FILL of Jesus for the week...
- Or they do NOT need to read their Bible TODAY - because they read it YESTERDAY...
- If we do NOT want to become spiritually WEAK - we need the Bread of Life EVERY day!
- **Psalm 1:2** - "His delight is in the [Word] ...and in [it] he meditates day and night!"
- Be content... vs. 9
 - Better is the sight of the eyes than the wandering of desire.
 - This also is vanity and grasping for the wind!
 - Therefore it is GOOD [טוֹב] to be CONTENT with what we can SEE [already have]
 - Because if we allow our SOUL [נִפְּשׁ] to WANDER...
 - Thinking there is something else out there that will SATISFY us...
 - We will be EMPTY [vanity] - because we are CHASING the WIND!
 - There is a BIG difference between NEED and WANT...
 - We all have a LOT of WANTS in life – but the question is do we NEED it...
 - Since God PROMISES to provide us with all of our NEEDS - **Matthew 6:33**
 - If we do NOT see it - we must NOT need it...
 - Therefore we should be CONTENT with what God has provided!
 - **Hebrews 13:5** - "Be content with such things as you have."
 - The problem comes when we are NOT content - when we let our SPIRIT wander...
 - Because if we THINK something other than Jesus can SATISFY us - chasing the WIND...
 - It is NOT about chasing something that is HARD to catch - NOTHING is there to catch...
 - There is NOTHING wrong with having MONEY – the problem is when MONEY has us...
 - The RICHEST man is NOT the one with the most MONEY – it is the one who is CONTENT...
 - The POOREST man is NOT the one with the least MONEY – it is the one who wants MORE!
- How to be content...
 - **II Corinthians 9:8** – "God is able to make all GRACE abound toward you - that you always having all [contentment] in all things may have an abundance for every good work!"
 - It is by the GRACE of God that we can LEARN to be CONTENT with what God gives us...
 - Then we will no longer OBSESSED with MONEY – we are free to SERVE Him...
 - And we find we have and ABUNDANCE of joy – as we ABOUND with good works!
- 4th - No tomorrow... vs. 10-12
 - Predetermined... vs. 10
 - Whatever one is he has been named already.
 - For it is known that he is man - and he cannot contend with Him who is mightier than he!
 - We do NOT know WHAT [מָה] will the FUTURE hold for us...
 - We come at LIFE full of questions - will we be RICH - be SATISFIED....
 - But who we are - our NAME [שֵׁם] - is already [niph'al] KNOWN [יָדוּעַ] by God...
 - AND [וְ] we CANNOT [לֹא] win [יָכֹל] - He is greater than we are - His TRUTH is what will stand!
 - This is NOT to say we do not have a CHOICE in life...
 - The whole point is that we DO have a CHOICE - **Joshua 24:15**
 - Do we insist on looking for answers UNDER the sun - put our trust in MONEY...
 - People have been trying this for THOUSANDS of years - and it has NEVER worked...
 - And it still does NOT work - if we are looking UNDER the sun - we will NOT be SATISFIED...
 - Because we are NOT going to change what God has said - the TRUTH stands!
 - **Romans 3:4** - "Let God be true but every man a liar."
 - Empty words... vs. 11

- Since there are many things that increase vanity how is man the better?
- BECAUSE [כִּי] - the more [רַבָּה] we SPEAK [דִּבֶּר] - the more [רַבָּה] EMPTY we become...
- WHAT [מָה] good does that do for MAN [אָדָם]!
- People talk a LOT about what we NEED to make us HAPPY...
- Over P42 TRILLION was spent on ADVERTISING in 2023...
- That breaks down to almost P5000 for every person on EARTH!
- Get a new cell phone - or a new car - or a new house...
- And when the world has talked us into being MILLIONS in debt - we are still NOT happy...
- The MORE they say - the MORE we see it is all EMPTY...
- Because there are NO answers UNDER the SUN - it is chasing the WIND!
- Unknown future... vs. 12
 - Who knows what is good for man all the days of his vain life which passes like a shadow?
 - Who can tell a man what will happen after him under the sun?
 - Solomon finishes up by asking TWO questions:
 - WHO [מִי] can SEE [יֵדַע] what GOOD [טוֹב] will happen to a MAN [אָדָם]
 - Whose life is EMPTY [vain] - and SHORT - it passes like a SHADOW...
 - WHO [מִי] - can tell a MAN [אָדָם] what will happen AFTER he is gone [under the sun]!
 - If I wanted to know how to build a new computer...
 - And I went to a gardener to ask for advice - it would NOT end well...
 - I am asking the WRONG person - for counsel on a subject they are NOT an expert at!
 - Why is it that when we want to know how to have a GOOD life - we go to MEN...
 - They have SHORT lives - that pass like a SHADOW [here for a moment then gone]
 - And their WISDOM is EMPTY [vain] - because they do NOT see the FUTURE...
 - It is no wonder that what they tell us is WRONG...
 - How much better to go to the EXPERT - go to the one who see EVERYTHING - **Isaiah 46:10**
 - Because the ANSWER to life are NOT found under the SUN...
 - It is found in the SON of God - who came to give us the TRUTH - **John 17:17**