

LifeGroup Questions

Based on: Ecclesiastes 5:8 - 6:12

June 19, 2016

Overview:

In these verses the Preacher of Ecclesiastes observes that the pursuit of wealth is an ultimately empty activity. While wealth as a gift from God for our well-being and as a tool to be used for God's kingdom work is a good thing, depending on it for our significance or security will only disappoint us.

"The problem with the world isn't the bad things; it's the good things that have become the best things..."

To treasure something means we say about it 'if I have this, then it'll all be worth it and I will be worth it' Timothy Keller

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:19-21 (NIV)

Bible Study: Ecclesiastes 5:8 – 6:12

1. Read Ecclesiastes 5: 8-9. Why do you think the Preacher says corruption in a wealth-based system shouldn't surprise us?
2. Read verses 13-18. In his sermon titled "Treasure vs. Money", Timothy Keller lists three ways the pursuit of wealth can become greed:
 - Taking a job based solely on the money to be made or status it provides
 - Choosing to ignore unethical/dishonest practices
 - Not questioning lifestyle choices (i.e., do I really need to spend that much money?)

Do you agree with him? Why or why not?

3. Make a list with the group of other ways you think the pursuit of wealth can become a negative thing.
4. Read 5:19 – 6:2. What would you say are the differences between God-given wealth and wealth generated by man's efforts?
5. These verses also imply that God gifts some people with wealth and others not. How do you feel about that observation?
6. An old Jewish tradition says those better off should care for those worse off, and no matter your situation there is always someone worse off than you. How do you think it would change our society if everyone took that tradition seriously?
7. Read Ecclesiastes 6:10 -12 and Matthew 6:19-21. Jesus, like the Preacher, warns against putting too much value on earthly things like wealth. Look again at the quote about what it means to treasure something. Share with the group how you would make a change in what you consider important.