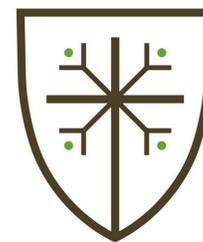


# SERMON NOTES



## A Whisper in the Wind

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES | LENT 2026 SERMON SERIES

March 15, 2026

### SERMON INFO

#### TITLE

"Certainties and Remembrance"

#### PREACHER

Rev. Craig Chapman

#### TEXTS

Ecclesiastes 9:2-16

James 4:13-16

Luke 12:15-21

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some blessings in this life that make you homesick for eternity with God? What are some blessings, or trials, that feel too grounding in this life or eternal in this life under the sun?
2. Are you living for your name or for God's name? What are some ways this week you can put God's glory above your own?

### SERMON IN SUMMARY

Craig continued our Lenten sermon series on the book of Ecclesiastes by stating that this wisdom book subverts the notion that if we do the right things, live the right way, and depend on ourselves, we will be rewarded with justice and enjoy life proportional to our efforts. The Preacher says that this worldly mindset will not bear fruit because life under the sun is not the way God intended life to be in the wake of the Fall, so we must enjoy life and make the most of what is good.

#### Realizing Certainties

In our fallen world, three certainties pose a challenge to the Preacher's counterargument of enjoying life, however. First is that death happens to all. Second is that we may all encounter injustice that does not make sense. Third is what Tim Keller describes as cosmic forgottenness—the memory of you and what you did under the sun will fade after you die.

Yet it is not our tendency to accept these certainties, bleak as they are. Even the most cynical of us are hungry for life, hungry for justice, and hungry for remembrance. These desires are not chance, but rather signs that we are designed for a life beyond this world and above the sun.

#### Finding Wisdom

Wisdom beyond this world impressed itself upon the Preacher in verses 14-16 when he observed the poor, wise man who saved his city from destruction. Even with this heroic act, he was forgotten and despised by his fellow citizens. Whether or not a true story, there is an allegory for Christ in these words. Though Jesus was rich, he became poor to save his people from the destruction of sin and death, ultimately using his riches for others so that they, and we, can be saved and forever blessed with God.

With salvation through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, we can look at the highs and lows of the world differently. We can appreciate the good gifts and experiences in this life as a foretaste of eternity with God. In turn, the bad experiences and injustices are temporary because this world is not our end. The remaining, ongoing challenge is to remember Christ's salvation, and that life under the sun is not all there is. Because we are not fully as God intended us to be in this broken world, we are inclined to make temporary things eternal things in our minds. We live for our own name and glory instead of God's—the only one who will not be forgotten and who will not forget us.

In a life after Jesus' first coming, we live in a better time than when Ecclesiastes was written: Jesus came and dwelt among us, and we can look back at a longer history of God's faithfulness. Even so, we can be encouraged that the best is yet to come, while also enduring the trials of this life under the sun with strength gifted by the one above the sun. Craig closed with questions to reflect upon in our remembrance and following after the poor wise man: Whose name are you trusting in? Whose glory are you living for?