

Pastor Keith Krell | February 27, 2022
Ecclesiastes 3:16-4:6 | “Life Is Hard ... and Then You Die!”

Sermon Application Review from Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

Who did you talk to about eternal matters this week (3:11)?
How did you revel in God’s sovereignty (3:12-15)?
How did you express gratitude for a good gift from God (3:12-13)?

Scripture References

Ecclesiastes 3:16–4:6
Exodus 23:1–9
Deuteronomy 16:19–20
Psalm 73
Psalm 90:10–12
Isaiah 1:10–17; 58:1–12
Proverbs 15:16; 16:8; 30:7–9

Study Questions

1. When have you most recently seen a travesty of justice (3:16)? How did you deal with this observation or experience? When others face injustice how do you provide comfort? How do you respond when you are asked to explain the reasons for injustice? What would you say to a work colleague, a classmate, or a family member who challenges you about your belief in God’s goodness?
2. What role(s) does God’s judgment play in injustice and wickedness (3:17)? Read 2 Corinthians 5:10 and Revelation 20:11–15. How does God’s judgment comfort or encourage you? How do the injustices of life remind you of your own human limitations and frailties (3:18–21)? What effect does this have on your present life?
3. How have you sought to be continually “happy” in your various activities (3:22)? What is your attitude regarding your marriage, family, friendships, job, and church? How does your attitude affect your contentment and enjoyment of life?
4. When have you been oppressed (4:1–3)? How did you respond? How have you seen people oppressed in business, marriage, family, relationships, and church? How does this make you feel? How can you avoid adopting a pessimistic attitude as you journey through this life?
5. How have you been guilty of rivalry and jealousy at work (4:4)? How do you respond inwardly when someone does a better job at something you value? What is your driving motivation in the work force today? Are your motivations breeding contentment or discontentment in your life? How has this pursuit wearied you and disappointed you? How can you discover a happy medium between workaholicism and laziness (4:5–6)?

Recommended Reading

Jerry Bridges, *Trusting God* (NavPress, 1988)
Gary A. Haugen, *Good News About Injustice: A Witness of Courage in a Hurting World* (IVP, 2009)
Dennis R. Edwards, *Might from the Margins: The Gospel’s Power to Turn the Tables on Injustice* (Herald, 2020)
Craig Blomberg, *Neither Poverty nor Riches* (IVP Academic, 2000)