



# FUSION

CHURCH OF MADISON

Sermon Guide for Tribes

September 24, 2023

Message Title: The Search for Meaning

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

1 I said in my heart, "Come now, I will test you with pleasure; enjoy yourself." But behold, this also was vanity. 2 I said of laughter, "It is mad," and of pleasure, "What use is it?" 3 I searched with my heart how to cheer my body with wine—my heart still guiding me with wisdom—and how to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was good for the children of man to do under heaven during the few days of their life. 4 I made great works. I built houses and planted vineyards for myself. 5 I made myself gardens and parks, and planted in them all kinds of fruit trees. 6 I made myself pools from which to water the forest of growing trees. 7 I bought male and female slaves, and had slaves who were born in my house. I had also great possessions of herds and flocks, more than any who had been before me in Jerusalem. 8 I also gathered for myself silver and gold and the treasure of kings and provinces. I got singers, both men and women, and many concubines, the delight of the sons of man.

9 So I became great and surpassed all who were before me in Jerusalem. Also my wisdom remained with me. 10 And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil. 11 Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun.

### Points of Consideration:

What Methods did Solomon Use to Experiment with Pleasure

*Investigation (vs. 1-3)*

*Laughter and Fun (vs. 2)*

*Wine (vs. 3)*

*Increase (vs. 4-9)*

*Estate (vs. 4-7a, 8a)*

*Ease (vs. 7a)*

*Entertainment (vs. 8b)*

*Indulgence (vs. 10)*

### Discussion Questions:

In Ecclesiastes 2:1-11, Solomon describes his quest for worldly pleasures and accomplishments. How does this pursuit of earthly satisfaction compare and contrast with the teachings of Jesus in the New Testament, particularly regarding the importance of seeking heavenly treasures and the kingdom of God? How might Solomon's experiences serve as a cautionary tale for believers in the context of their spiritual journey?

Solomon's observation in Ecclesiastes 2:11 about the futility of his toil and achievements echoes the theme of "vanity" or "meaninglessness" found throughout the book of Ecclesiastes. How does this sense

of vanity align with the New Testament's message of salvation through faith in Christ rather than through one's own efforts or achievements? What does this suggest about the fundamental difference between the Old Testament's perspective on human striving and the New Testament's emphasis on grace and redemption?

The pursuit of pleasure and worldly gain described by Solomon in Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 can be seen as a reflection of the human condition before encountering the transformative power of the gospel. How might the teachings of the New Testament, such as the parable of the prodigal son or the call to repentance and faith in Jesus, offer a path out of the emptiness and futility that Solomon experienced? How does the gospel message provide hope and a sense of purpose beyond the temporal pursuits highlighted in these verses?

# Begin your time of discussion today by praying earnestly over the Sunday morning service!

## You Turn Ministries

- Soccer league outreach
- Pray for nine pastor training schools, and over 200 students
- Pray for the over 80 orphans that You Turn currently supports

## Church Plants!

### - Hispanic Church Plant

- Be in prayer for Pastor Roberto and his family and for God to open doors amongst the Hispanic community in Morgan County.
- Pray for consistency from new families visiting the Bible study.

### - Walton County Church Plant

**Church of Good Hope - Partnerships (Update from Craig Story - ChurchOfGoodHopeGA@gmail.com)**

#### **PRAYER PARTNERS (one-year commitment)**

- **Col 1:9 - For this reason also, since the day we heard this, we haven't stopped praying for you...**
- **Prayer is our most important partnership. If we could have a hundred churches partner with us in prayer, we would still seek even more.**
- **Each month, you will receive the Top 3 Prayer Requests from the Church of Good Hope. They will be as specific as we can make them.**
- **We would simply ask that your staff and leadership pray for those requests AND pass those requests along to your congregation.**

#### **CONNECTION PARTNERS (one-year commitment)**

- **Luke 10:6 - "If a person of peace is there, your peace will rest on him" ... Acts 16:15 - After she and her household were baptized, she urged us, "If you consider me a believer in the Lord, come and stay at my house."**
- **Good Hope is a small community and the Gospel will spread faster through existing connections.**

- Twice a month, community groups will meet at houses in the Good Hope area.
- We would ask that you identify families from your church that live in Good Hope to open their home as community group hosts for their neighbors and people connected to the Church of Good Hope.

#### **LAUNCH PARTNERS (6-month commitment)**

- 1 Thes 2:8 - We cared so much for you that we were pleased to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become so dear to us.
- There are many details that go into launching a church from scratch (like providing safe child care by trained workers with background checks).
- We will have preview services at 6:00pm on July 30, Aug 13, Aug 27, and Sep 10. Our Public Launch Service is on Sep 17, and then we'll meet weekly.
- We would ask that you provide childcare (and possibly other logistical needs) for our Sunday evening services until we can establish our own ministry teams by the end of January.

#### **FINANCIAL PARTNERS (6-mo. commitment + 6-mo.)**

- 1 Cor 16:2 - On the first day of the week, each of you is to set something aside and save in keeping with how he is prospering...
- The Church of Good Hope will join God in his plan to transform lives with the Gospel. We will do this by developing disciples who are equipped to share the Good News of Jesus and demonstrate the life He calls us to live in our homes, communities, and throughout the world.
- As we develop disciples, we will teach stewardship.
- However, until they are developed, you can partner with us at \$500/month starting in July 2023.

### **Life Community Church, Weymouth, MA**

- Visit the link below for a ministry partner update from Noah Madden and Life Community!

<https://youtu.be/8Gah-cMg-z8>

- A permanent church building to own.
- "Dots on the Map" for future plants
- Continued relationship with Seach Elementary School in Weymouth, MA - Next steps for families who connected with LCC at the Fall Fun Fest
- Office Space for staff

- Follow the link below for the most recent LLC newsletter!

<https://youtu.be/8Gah-cMg-z8>

## FCA

- Jason and Traci McBay have recently begun their third year with their current team overseeing FCA ministry in our region. They have witnessed God not only grow FCA here in Morgan County but also use their experience as a model to grow the Kingdom in our surrounding counties.

- Please pray that God will continue to give them fruit for their labor and for God to use FCA as a light in our local public schools.

“We can’t thank God enough for all that He has done and will continue to do through our ministry. If you’d like to get plugged in, please reach out.”

## Timothy Initiative

### Update on Turkana region in Kenya:

“This is the situation in Turkana region Kenya. Have your family and the church pray, remember Turkana church. People are facing a tough time because of drought which has existed for a long period. People are lacking food and clean water. Diseases like malaria, typhoid, and tuberculosis are affecting people. We lost eight people because they lack food to eat.” – from Pastor Eloilo

- The East African team has been praying fervently for their field leaders and their families; many of them are experiencing significant health issues and are in need of prayer for both healing and financial provision.

- Pray specifically for Pastor Simon Eloilo, a key leader in the Turkana mission work. Pastor Simon’s wife and daughters have been battling health problems for over 3 months now. His wife, Oriba Kemunto, is currently in need of a third eye surgery, but the family lacks funds and is praying for God to provide a way for them.

- For both the staff and field leaders, prayer has been requested for grace and motivation to continue in service.

- Pray for these pastors as they minister in often desolate, impoverished places with limited resources and cultural opposition.

- The cost of planting a church through TTI is \$400; consider how your tribe may impact believers across the globe by planting a church through TTI!

## Nursing Home Ministry

- Daniel and Karrah Howell have recently spearheaded an effort to bless our local nursing home community. Specifically, we as a church are collecting items for which residents regularly ask. Below is a list that designates which items each tribe is collecting, and we would greatly appreciate your help!

Young Adult Tribe-little Knick-knacks, Yarn

Young Married Tribe-Adult coloring books, Cotton balls

Married & Singles Tribe-Nail polish remover, Men's aftershave.

Married(no childcare) Tribe-Devotional Books

Empty Nesters Tribe-Body Spray/Perfume

6th-12th grade Boys Tribe-Can soda/store brand(orange, grape, ginger ale) 6th-12th grade Girls Tribe-Little Debbie snacks/crackers/cookies

Married w/kids(McBay)- Bodywash, Emery boards, Deodorant, Bangle bracelets

Encore Senior Adults-gloves, stocking caps

Married Tribe (Broach)- Turbans, Bandanas, scarves

**Please see Daniel or Karrah if you have any questions.**