

Satisfaction Sold Separately

Ecclesiastes 5:8-6:9

Big Idea: Money does not guarantee satisfaction; so, we pursue Christ and trust him to satisfy us.

⁸ If you see in a province the oppression of the poor and the violation of justice and righteousness, do not be amazed at the matter, for the high official is watched by a higher, and there are yet higher ones over them. ⁹ But this is gain for a land in every way: a king committed to cultivated fields. ¹⁰ He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity. ¹¹ When goods increase, they increase who eat them, and what advantage has their owner but to see them with his eyes? ¹² Sweet is the sleep of a laborer, whether he eats little or much, but the full stomach of the rich will not let him sleep.

¹³ There is a grievous evil that I have seen under the sun: riches were kept by their owner to his hurt, ¹⁴ and those riches were lost in a bad venture. And he is father of a son, but he has nothing in his hand. ¹⁵ As he came from his mother's womb he shall go again, naked as he came, and shall take nothing for his toil that he may carry away in his hand. ¹⁶ This also is a grievous evil: just as he came, so shall he go, and what gain is there to him who toils for the wind? ¹⁷ Moreover, all his days he eats in darkness in much vexation and sickness and anger.

¹⁸ Behold, what I have seen to be good and fitting is to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of his life that God has given him, for this is his lot. ¹⁹ Everyone also to whom God has given wealth and possessions and power to enjoy them, and to accept his lot and rejoice in his toil-- this is the gift of God. ²⁰ For he will not much remember the days of his life because God keeps him occupied with joy in his heart. ^{6:1} There is an evil that I have seen under the sun, and it lies heavy on mankind: ² a man to whom God gives wealth, possessions, and honor, so that he lacks nothing of all that he desires, yet God does not give him power to enjoy them, but a stranger enjoys them. This is vanity; it is a grievous evil.

³ If a man fathers a hundred children and lives many years, so that the days of his years are many, but his soul is not satisfied with life's good things, and he also has no burial, I say that a stillborn child is better off than he. ⁴ For it comes in vanity and goes in darkness, and in darkness its name is covered. ⁵ Moreover, it has not seen the sun or known anything, yet it finds rest rather than he. ⁶ Even though he should live a thousand years twice over, yet enjoy no good-- do not all go to the one place? ⁷ All the toil of man is for his mouth, yet his appetite is not satisfied. ⁸ For what advantage has the wise man over the fool? And what does the poor man have who knows how to conduct himself before the living? ⁹ Better is the sight of the eyes than the wandering of the appetite: this also is vanity and a striving after wind. (Ecc 5:8-9 ESV)

Big Idea: Money does not guarantee satisfaction; so, we pursue Christ and trust him to satisfy us.

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- 0. Preliminary Point: Money isn't evil.
- 1. Money cannot satisfy (5:8-12; 6:7-9).
- 2. Living for money is a great evil (5:13-17; 6:3-6).
- 3. Enjoy the life God has given you (5:18).

0. Money, in-and-of-itself, isn't evil.

¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs (1Ti 6:10).

Wealthy people continue to serve God.

- Joseph, called Barnabas (Acts 4:36-37)
- Dorcas (Acts 9:36)
- Cornelius (Acts 10:1)
- Sergius Paulus (Acts 13:6-12)
- Lydia (Acts 16:14-15)
- Jason (Acts 17:5-9)
- Aquila and Priscilla (Acts 18:2-3)
- Mnason of Cyprus (Acts 21:16)

Compared to the world, we are wealthy.

- i. But someone has more, so, we don't see it.
- ii. Even Ecclesiastes didn't enjoy our luxuries.
- iii. And yet, somehow, we're not satisfied. Why?

And honestly, none of us Americans can look around and complain about wealthy people ... By world comparison, American's are wealthy.

If you make about \$37K/year you're in the top 10% of the world's population.

\$3K/year makes you richer than 50%. \$125K puts you in the top 1%.

<https://wir2022.wid.world/chapter-1/>

40% of the world still doesn't have indoor plumbing.

But none of this is likely to make us feel wealthy because someone has more ... and frankly, we're all pretty spoiled.

And I'm not mad about living in America. I thank God.

Solomon, in all his wealth, didn't enjoy most of what we have ... running water, air conditioning, TVs, cars, blue bell, fast food ... etc ...

And yet, somehow, even with all of our stuff ... we're not satisfied.

1. Money cannot satisfy (5:8-12; 6:7-9).

¹⁰ He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity... ^{6:7} All the toil of man is for his mouth, yet his appetite is not satisfied. ... ⁹ Better is the sight of the eyes than the wandering of the appetite: this also is vanity and a striving after wind.

Mo' money, mo' problems

- i. Those who love money will never be satisfied by it (v. 10).
- ii. As wealth increases, so does the need for wealth (v. 11).
- iii. Money keeps us up at night worrying about money (v. 12).
- iv. All the toil, but no satisfaction (v. 6:7).
- v. Human desire cannot find satisfaction (6:9; Prov 27:20).

the high official is watched by a higher official (v. 8).

Society is corrupt, all the way to the top (v. 9).

Mo' money mo' problems. It's a vicious cycle. (vv. 10-12).

If the goal is money, obtaining it won't be enough (v. 12).

(6:7-9) All the toil of man, yet his appetite is not satisfied. (v. 6:7). All the toil is for a man's mouth and he's never satisfied.

Poor man is in a better position because he has eyes that see the blessings right in front of him.

The rich man has so much, but he's never satisfied with them so he's always looking for something else.

Again, this isn't about the amount of money we have, it's about the source of our satisfaction.

For the wise have no advantage over fools (**6:8**)

Better is the sight of the eyes than the wandering of desire (**6:9a**)

The wandering of human desire is vanity (6:9).

Instead of money, focus on these 4 pillars:

- i. Faith: Connect with God.
- ii. Family: Maintain strong family bonds.
- iii. Friendship: Cultivate deep, non-transactional friendships.
- iv. Work: Find meaning and purpose in what you do.

These are from Aurther Brooks, happiness guru.

Faith: This pillar emphasizes the importance of having a sense of something transcendent, whether through religion, nature, or other practices that help individuals feel connected to something larger than themselves.

Family: This pillar highlights the significance of strong family bonds, whether traditional or non-traditional, as a major predictor of overall happiness.

Friendship: Brooks emphasizes the importance of cultivating deep, non-transactional friendships as a key ingredient for happiness, especially in a society where loneliness is a growing concern.

Work: This pillar focuses on the importance of finding meaning and purpose in one's work, whether through earned success or service to others. It's not just about the job itself, but also the "who" and the "why" behind

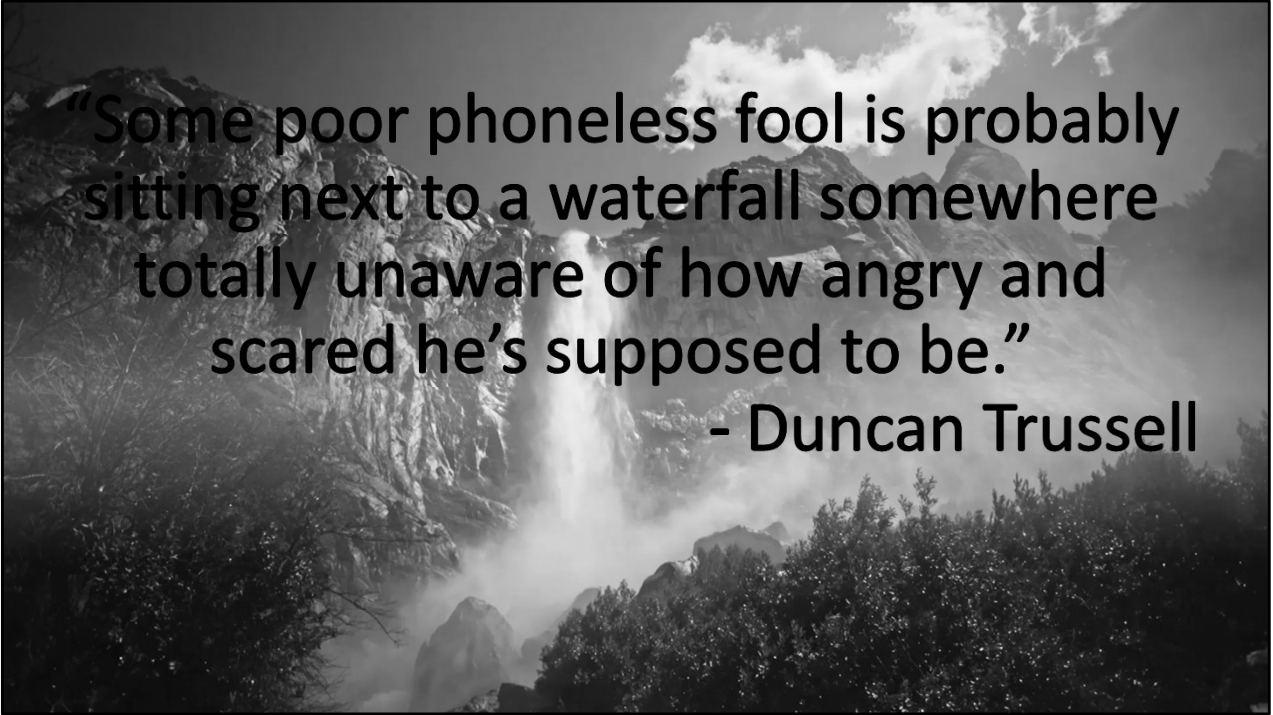
2. Living for money is a great evil (5:13-17; 6:1-6).

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Living without joy is a great evil.

Greed keeps us from joy, and satisfaction.

- i. Hording [addiction] hurts us (v. 13).
- ii. Saving just to be rich ends badly (v. 14).
- iii. The guy has a family but never enjoyed them (v. 14b).
- iv. His greed leads to darkness/frustration/anger (v. 17).
- v. He's stuff-icated, blind to God, and has no joy (v. 6:2-3).



“Some poor phoneless fool is probably sitting next to a waterfall somewhere totally unaware of how angry and scared he’s supposed to be.”

- Duncan Trussell

We create our own problems by hyper focusing on all that could go wrong. Instead, trust God.

3. Enjoy the life God has given you (5:18).

¹⁸ Behold, what I have seen to be good and fitting is to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of his life that God has given him, for this is his lot. ¹⁹ Everyone also to whom God has given wealth and possessions and power to enjoy them, and to accept his lot and rejoice in his toil-- this is the gift of God. ²⁰ For he will not much remember the days of his life because God keeps him occupied with joy in his heart.

Find enjoyment in the life God has given you.

- i. Today is a gift, enjoy it (5:18; 2:24-26; Ps 118).
- ii. Choosing to enjoy today keeps us from sorrow (5:20).
- iii. Focus on holiness, happiness will arrive (Mt 5:3-10).

There are only 168 hours in a week. Make them count. You won't get them back.

Do not “set [your] hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy” (1Ti 6:17).

Setting our hopes on God starts by receiving Jesus as our Lord.