

STREET SMARTS: ECCLESIASTES

February 9th, 2025

MESSAGE RECAP

The book of Ecclesiastes challenges us to rethink our expectations about life. The Teacher, likely Solomon, reflects on his pursuit of meaning through experiences, work, and control, only to conclude that everything is “hevel” – a vapor, temporary and elusive. However, wisdom is found in fearing God and living with eternity in view rather than grasping for control over what is ultimately out of our hands.

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Have you ever put a lot of effort into something only to realize it didn't matter as much as you thought? What was that experience like?
2. Life Expectations: Read Ecclesiastes 1:1-11.
 - a. The Teacher declares, “Everything is meaningless.” What do you think he means by this?
 - b. What are some common expectations people have about life that might not hold up in the long run?
 - c. Where do most of your expectations about life come from – family, culture, personal experience?
3. The Pursuit of Pleasure and Work: Ecclesiastes 2:1-3,22-23.
 - a. The Teacher pursued pleasure and achievement but found them unsatisfying. Have you ever experienced the feeling of achieving something but still feeling empty? What did that teach you, then? What reminder does that give you now?
4. Control and Uncertainty: Ecclesiastes 3:1-14, 7:13-14
 - a. How does this passage challenge our desire for control?
 - b. In what ways have you wrestled with a season of life not going as planned?
 - c. How does embracing both good and difficult seasons deepen our trust in God?
5. Living with Eternity in View: Ecclesiastes 12:13-14, John 16:33
 - a. What steps can you take this week to shift your focus from temporary pursuits to things with eternal significance?
 - b. What are you pursuing right now that might be “meaningless” in the grand scheme of things? How can you realign your focus on what truly matters?