

Message Based Questions - July 5th, 2015

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What was memorable about this message?

Suggested Reading: Ecclesiastes 11:13-14

"I applied my mind to study and to explore by wisdom all that is done under the heavens. What a heavy burden God has laid on mankind! I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind."

Possible Discussion

We live in a culture where everything is amazing and nobody is happy. We have everything available to us (technological advances, travel, improvements in modern society, etc.), and yet we still find ourselves frustrated with our current situations. If we are not careful, our lack of satisfaction can lead us down a negative path. We are bound to a life in search of "something more".

- How does the phrase "everything is amazing and nobody is happy" apply to your life?
- Explain a time when you were given "the world" and squandered it in search of something greater.

The term "life under the sun" is a reference to life based on what you see, touch, taste, smell, hear and feel. A life based on senses alone is meaningless without God.

- In your own words explain this math: Everything - God=Nothing. God + Nothing= Everything.
- What would be the repercussions in your life look like if you did the right things on the outside but were consumed with self on the inside?

We must learn to delight in God. When we are frustrated and discouraged, we need to step toward God in the simple ways.

- What is a practical next step toward delighting in God as you go through your daily life? How might this impact your relationship with Him.

Just because you are good at something does not mean that it is your "strength". If it leaves you feeling deflated and exhausted, it's just something you are good at. A strength makes you feel strong.

- What is it that you do that makes you feel strong spiritually and connected to God?

Experiments to try this week:

1. Create a list of things that make you feel spiritually connected and do some of them this week.
2. Delight in God in the simple ways. Enjoy a sunrise, go on a hike or go star gazing. Whatever brings you closer to God, do it!

Prayer Challenge

Heavenly Father,

I am open to your gifts today, and I pray that you help me see and experience them. Help me to delight in you, even when I feel far away from you. Give me grace despite my pursuit of pleasure, accomplishment and gratification and invite me into a loving relationship with you and the people you have placed in my life.

Amen