

LEAD SHEET

ECCLESIASTES - WEEK 5

YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU

MAY 1, 2016

THIS MONTH'S FAITH SKILL:

WORSHIP WITH YOUR LIFE

If you want to know God better, give back to Him!

GETTING STARTED

General Discussion:

- How important is money to you?
- Is it wrong to want more money?
- Do you think money is a good motivator?

The truth is, we are convinced that having more money is always better. Today, we are going to talk about money, and how our view of money might be pulling us away from God.

Now, everyone turn to Ecclesiastes 5 and let's dig in.

DIGGING IN

Read Ecclesiastes 5:1-7

Discussion Questions:

1. What is Solomon talking about when he says “the house of God”? (*The temple—the center of Jewish worship in the Old Testament.*)
2. What is his advice for those going to worship? (*To listen rather than speak, do not be hasty, etc.*)

3. Why do you think “let your words be few” is good advice for us all?

Read Ecclesiastes 5:10-17

Discussion Questions:

1. What is Solomon’s view of riches? (*They are meaningless.*)
2. How is it that the richest man on earth could come to this conclusion? (*He had everything, but was still unfulfilled.*)
3. Re-read verse 10. Do you know anyone like this?
4. Why does wealth never bring complete satisfaction? (*Because it cannot save, it comes and goes, etc.*)
5. In verses 10-15, Solomon names some of the “traps” that loving money can cause you to fall into. What are some of those traps?

- addiction/dissatisfaction (verse 10)
- attracts the greedy (verse 11)
- becomes a status symbol/trophy (verse 11)
- promotes worry (verse 12)
- causes lack of sleep (verse 12)
- results in hoarding/stockpiling for self (verse 13)
- can be lost easily (verse 14)
- sure to disappear at death (verse 15)

Read Matthew 19:16-26

Discussion Questions:

1. How hard do you think it is for a rich man to enter Heaven? (*According to Jesus, it is very hard.*)

2. What are some ways that you can ensure that your money never becomes your master? (*By being generous, don't think of it as "yours", etc.*)

Read Ecclesiastes 5:18-20 & 6:1-2

Discussion Questions:

1. What does Solomon observe to be a good thing? (Working hard and enjoying life.)
2. Verse 5:19 includes a gift from God. What is it? (Having wealth and being able to enjoy it, not worrying and fussing to accumulate more and more.)
3. The beginning of chapter 6 reveals a point of great misery to Solomon. What is it? (Having wealth but being unsatisfied and unable to enjoy it.)

MAKING IT REAL

Favorite Possessions (Activity)

Make a list of the group's favorite possessions or things they would LIKE to have. Write each of them down. Then, go through the list one by one. Circle the ones that can make it to Heaven.

Discussion Questions:

1. Is there something inherently wrong with having wealth or possessions? (*No.*) Explain.
2. Then, what makes wealth and stuff sinful? (*Loving them, trusting them, etc.*)
3. If you own something but it will cease to be yours after this world ends, how important is that something? (*Not very.*)

Read Luke 16:13

If it's true, you can't serve God and things at the same time, then the question we're left with today is this: Who or what are you serving?

Think about your search for happiness. Do you try to find it by giving in to the desires of the world? Do you live as if the pursuit of money will bring you true happiness? Focus your attention today to the Spirit and what the Spirit desires.

CLOSING PRAYER

Close by praying that your students will find joy in Christ and not run after the desires of the world.

#CRAZYFORCHRIST