



Main Point: Knowing the children of Israel's tendency to stray into paganism, sometime during the latter years of his reign, King Solomon has the congregation of Israel assembled together so he can address the basic human question.... what is the point of life and how can I be satisfied? Though most of the sermon addresses this basic question from a humanistic philosophy (one who's premise reasons God out of the equation), in describing the obvious vanity of life, King Solomon builds the case that it's

impossible to find real meaning and satisfaction apart from God. The book of Ecclesiastes (meaning "Speaker before an assembly") is literally the manuscript of this ancient sermon. And as with all great three-point sermons, King Solomon begins by clearly stating his thesis, "What is the Key to a Satisfying Life?". He then proceeds to spend the body of the message recounting the disappointments of his own personal quest for satisfaction, "I've Tried Many Keys and I'm Still Unsatisfied!" Before finally reaching his over-arching conclusion.... "The Key to a Satisfying Life is God-Shaped"!

1st Point - "What is the Key to a Satisfying Life?"

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

Life Seems Meaningless

2nd Point - "I've Tried Many Keys & I'm Still Unsatisfied!"

Ecclesiastes 1:12-18

Key #1: Intellectualism (Wisdom & Knowledge)

Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

Key #2: Hedonism (Pleasure is the Only Good)

Ecclesiastes 2:12-26

Key #3: Materialism (Carpe Diem - Today!)

Ecclesiastes 3:1-4:3

Key #4: Fatalism (All destiny is Inevitable)

Ecclesiastes 4:4-16

Key #5: Egotism (Self-Centered Universe)

Ecclesiastes 5:1-7

Key #6: Religionism (Excessive Religious Zeal)

Ecclesiastes 5:8-6:12

Key #7: Collectivism (Wealth of the Majority)

Ecclesiastes 7:1-12:8

Key #8: Moralism (Being Good)

- Avoid Foolishness

Ecclesiastes 7:1-14

- Self-Control

Ecclesiastes 7:15-8:1

- Submission

Ecclesiastes 8:2-10

- Fear Judgment

Ecclesiastes 8:11-13; 16-9:12

- Enjoy Life

Ecclesiastes 8:14-15

- Follow Wisdom

Ecclesiastes 9:13-10:20

- Be Diligent

Ecclesiastes 11:1-6

- Enjoy Youth

Ecclesiastes 11:7-12:8

3rd Point - "The Key to a Satisfying Life is God-Shaped!"

Ecclesiastes 12:9-14

Fear God & Keep His Commands

Important Passage: "...the conclusion to the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments. For this is man's all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil"
- Ecclesiastes 12:13-14



Day 1: The Quest....

Ecclesiastes 1:1-18 // THINKING POINTS: (1). Can you relate at all to the emotions King Solomon describes concerning life and its apparent meaninglessness? (2). Though Solomon is dealing with dark emotions, how has he decided to handle with them? (3). What is the appropriate way to handle sincere questions of faith or emotions?

Day 2: Empty Pleasure....

Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 // THINKING POINTS: (1). If you could have whatever you believed would make you happy, what would you choose? (2). Solomon had everything we'd ever desire in it's fullness (women, power, popularity, wealth, etc) and yet what does he say concerning them? (3). If Solomon had everything we'd ever want and it didn't satisfy, what important reality should we consider?

Day 3: Understanding the Times....

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15 // THINKING POINTS: (1). What natural truth is Solomon illustrating in the first eight verses? (2). We know nature operates according to seasons, does your life operate in a similar pattern? What do these "life seasons" look like? (3). How do we allow our lack of patience to rob us of today's joy?

Day 4: Threefold....

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 // THINKING POINTS: (1). According to our passage, what is the obvious benefit to having friends? (2). Solomon describes friendship as being a "threefold cord".... in regards to our relationships what kind of strength is added when the Lord becomes the third cord? (3). How has the Lord strengthened your friendships?

Day 5: Youthful Opportunity....

Ecclesiastes 11:1-10 // THINKING POINTS: (1). In a society that looks down on youth, what is Solomon's perspective? (2). In what ways does Solomon view youth as being a good thing? (3). As a youth, what are practical ways we can "put away evil from your flesh"?

Day 6: The Point of Things....

Ecclesiastes 12:1-14 // THINKING POINTS: (1). As the wisest, most indulgent human to ever live, what does Solomon say is the key to happiness and satisfaction? (2). How does this truth contradict the message our society teaches? (3). In what ways is Godly obedience interconnected with personal happiness?

DEVOTIONS

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