

AN UNDISTRACTED LIFE

ECCLESIASTES 5:8-6:9

- The pursuit of wealth can never SATISFY.
Ecc 5:8-12, 6:7-9

- The pursuit of wealth destroys our ability to ENJOY life.
Ecc 5:13-17, 6:1-6

- We are called to receive God's daily GIFTS with JOY.
Ecc 5:18-20

FURTHER UP, FURTHER IN

1. How does our culture push us to pursue wealth and possessions? Do you think this is different from other times in history? How so? How is it not different?
2. Read Ecclesiastes 5:10-12 and 6:7-9. According to these verses, what are some reasons that the pursuit of wealth can never satisfy us? Can you think of any other reasons?
3. Read Jeremiah 2:10-13. Describe the exchange going on here. How do you picture it? What are the two evils? Why is this exchange so appalling? Do we view it that way?
4. In your own life, what are some areas where you are tempted seek satisfaction apart from Christ?
5. Read Ecclesiastes 5:13-27 and 6:1-6. How does the pursuit of wealth harm us according to these verses? Can you think of some ways you've seen this to be true, either in the Bible or in our world?
6. Read Luke 12:15-21, 16:13, Matthew 6:19-21, 1 Timothy 6:6-10, 6:17, Prov 23:4-5, 28:22, 30:8-9, and John 6:27. From these passages, what stands out to you as a way we can be undistracted by the pursuit of wealth?
7. Read Ecclesiastes 5:18-20. How should we think about joy? Is it a duty or optional? How can you have joy in the midst of difficulty? (see 1 Thes 5:16, Phil 4:4, Psalm 5:11, 37:4, Neh 8:10, John 15:11, 16:24, 17:13)
8. What does it look like for you to receive God's daily gifts with joy this coming week?

LIVING LIFE
BACKWARD

"I have come home at last! This is my real country! I belong here. This is the land I have been looking for all my life, though I never knew it till now. . . . Come further up, come further in!" — C.S. Lewis, The Last Battle