Stuff Isn't Enough

Brent Moody · Ecclesiastes 5:10–20 · Series: **Life Under the Sun**

INTRODUCTION

- Success in a career or success in your education is not the source of joy.
- If the foundation of your life is not God, it will be empty.
- What Jesus understood, and what the writer of Ecclesiastes understands, is that all the stuff in the world just isn't enough to make us happy.

1 Self-Centered Toil Steals Joy

Ecclesiastes 5:10–14; Ecclesiastes 4:4–8

- The first of those is what the world offers is endless striving without satisfaction.
- He who loves money will not be satisfied with money. We worship it. It becomes an idol, and it will just keep wanting more and more and more from us.
- Number two, even the temporary pleasures fade.
- And so there's the anxiety of the futility of all of this and what's going to happen.
- Number four is the anxious competition and envy that comes from a mind focused on the possessions and the wealth of this world.
- Which then leads to number five, isolation and emptiness, loneliness.

2 God-Centered Toil Brings Joy and Contentment

Ecclesiastes 5:18–20; Ecclesiastes 4:9

- We should view toil and its results as God's gift to enjoy. This is the gift of God. And I should be using it for the things of God.
- There is nothing better for a person, that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil.
- The second part of this is present-focused gratitude. That is not getting so caught up in the future or not looking so much to the past, but just enjoying the moment that we're in right now.
- Money is just a tool to be stewarded, not a goal to be achieved or an idol to worship.
- We need to be people who are focused on generosity, just as God himself is, just as he has blessed us, and these things are all the gift of God.
- We're finding joy in the God who blesses, not in the blessings themselves.

THE CHALLENGE

Are you ready to give up the meaninglessness of this life and live a life of purpose in our Savior?

MY NOTES