

#7 Why the Money-Hungry Aren't Happy

Ecclesiastes 5:8-20 (NIV)

An Observation:

THE SYSTEM IS OFTEN RIGGED AGAINST THE POOR

Ecclesiastes 5:8 *If you see the poor oppressed in a district, and justice and rights denied, do not be surprised at such things; for one official is eyed by a higher one, and over them both are others higher still. ⁹ The increase from the land is taken by all; the king himself profits from the fields.*

WHY MONEY-HUNGRY PEOPLE AREN'T HAPPY

1. Money can't ultimately satisfy the HUMAN HEART

Ecclesiastes 5:10 *Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless.*

2. Increased wealth just attracts more CONSUMERS

Ecclesiastes 5:11 *As goods increase, so do those who consume them. And what benefit are they to the owner except to feast his eyes on them?*

3. Wealth often fails to DELIVER what it PROMISES

Ecclesiastes 5:12 *The sleep of a laborer is sweet, whether he eats little or much, but the abundance of a rich man permits him no sleep. ¹³ I have seen a grievous evil under the sun: wealth hoarded to the harm of its owner, ¹⁴ or wealth lost through some misfortune, so that when he has a son there is nothing left for him.*

4. Earthly wealth has a limited SHELF-LIFE

Ecclesiastes 5:15 *Naked a man comes from his mother's womb, and as he comes, so he departs. He takes nothing from his labor that he can carry in his hand. ¹⁶ This too is a grievous evil: As a man comes, so he departs, and what does he gain, since he toils for the wind?*

Matthew 6:19 Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

5. The downside of massive loss can be DEVASTATING

Ecclesiastes 5:17 *All his days he eats in darkness, with great frustration, affliction and anger.*

REAL ENJOYMENT OF LIFE ULTIMATELY COMES FROM GOD

A. "SEIZE The Day!"

Ecclesiastes 5:18 *Then I realized that it is good and proper for a man to eat and drink, and to find satisfaction in his toilsome labor under the sun during the few days of life God has given him—for this is his lot.*

*Simple gifts from God I'm thankful for today:

B. Acknowledge God's SOVEREIGNTY!

Ecclesiastes 5:19 *Moreover, when God gives any man wealth and possessions, and enables him to enjoy them, to accept his lot and be happy in his work—this is a gift of God.*

C. Let God Enthrall You With His Gift Of JOY!

Ecclesiastes 5:20 *He seldom reflects on the days of his life, because God keeps him occupied with gladness of heart.*