



Harbor Trinity Groups

Discussion Questions

Sermon Title: A Weary World: Satisfaction in a Weary World

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 6:1-12

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1. King Solomon brings to our attention, “an evil that I have seen under the sun” (6:1). This is a recurring theme throughout the book (3:16; 4:1 5:13; 9:3; 10:5). Do you agree with King Solomon’s assessment of life or do you see life from a different perspective?
2. What is the evil that King Solomon observed (6:1-2)? Why would he consider this a grievous evil?
3. If you “lacked nothing of all that you desire” (6:2), what would that be? Are you the things you mentioned needs, wants, desires, dreams, or fantasies? How are these distinguished as we consider how Psalm 37:4 is often applied in these situations. “God will give you the desires of your heart.”
4. King Solomon consistently states, “There is nothing better...” (2:24-26; 3:12-13, 22; 5:18-20) than to find joy in all that God has given. This is the shared human experience of feeling stuck on the hamster wheel, chasing the wind, etc. All of this effort, with little satisfaction. How much more difficult would it be to see someone else find joy in them when you cannot?
5. King Solomon provides a very staggering illustration in Ecclesiastes 6:3-6. Why does he use such an illustration for the point he is making?
6. If we are unable to find satisfaction in this lifetime (6:3: 100 children, many years), do we think that more time would bring us greater joy (6:6: a thousand years twice over)?
7. King Solomon presents our pursuits in a unique way. He describes them as an appetite that is not satisfied (6:7). What do you think of this description?
8. An appetite is, “a desire to satisfy a need.” Some appetites are basic (food, water, shelter, rest). Some of them extend beyond the essentials (responsibility, respect, win, growth, fame, achievement, to be envied, to be loved). In some ways, these appetites describe the pursuits of King Solomon thus far. Is there one in particular that is strongest for you?
9. “Better is the sight of the eyes than the wandering of the appetite” (6:9). While appetites are good, they can easily be distorted. Appetites will never be fully and finally satisfied. Have you felt your appetites pull you in a direction or cause you to wander away from a desired path?
10. If a friend, family member, coworker, or neighbor asked you the questions in Ecclesiastes 6:12, how would you answer them?