

SERMON OUTLINE Ecclesiastes 1:1-2

Vanity Below, Glory Above

THE PREACHER

The Preacher

Traditionally Understood to be Solomon

Purposefully Anonymous

Inspired by God

Frame Narrator

THE PREACHER'S PERSPECTIVE

Vanity

Sovereignty of God

Under the Sun

THE MAIN MESSAGE OF ECCLESIASTES

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

The main message of Ecclesiastes is that under the sun, all is vanity, but there is more than meets the eye in God's world. The Preacher gives us glimpses of what the rest of the Bible makes crystal clear: above the sun is glory beyond imagination. The main takeaways are to ask God to help us see the glory above and to live according to His promises below.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. Have you ever read Ecclesiastes before? What were your thoughts on it if you did? Is it easy to understand? Helpful?
3. What are you most looking forward to as we make our way through this book?
4. How well does your experience line up with the Preacher's concerning what life is like?
5. Who do you think wrote Ecclesiastes? Why do you think that? How much does it matter if we're able to know for sure?
6. Which of the three main themes of Ecclesiastes (vanity, God's sovereignty, and under the sun) is most interesting to you?
7. Is it encouraging or discouraging to you to know that the vanity of life is part of God's sovereign plan?
8. What are some of the key principles you've found to living in the world as it really is?
9. Which of Pastor Dave's illustrations (airplane and tapestry) was most helpful to you in explaining the message of the book?
10. What percent of your life is lived with an under the sun vs. over the sun perspective?
11. In what way/s did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

12. Continue reading through Ecclesiastes.
13. Ask a non-Christian friend or neighbor to read Ecclesiastes with you and/or invite them to church to hear it preached.
14. Make a list of the things in life that you've found to be particularly mysterious. Share that list with your DG.
15. Go to DG this week well-prepared to share your thoughts on Ecclesiastes/the sermon.
16. Eat, drink, and make merry with some brothers and sisters in Christ. Intentionally thank God as you do.
17. Make a tapestry (or fly above the clouds on a rainy day).
18. Ask two different people in your family or DG (1) One thing they got from this sermon, and (2) How you can pray for them.
19. Pick one specific thing you mean to do differently as a result of the things you saw or heard in this text or sermon.

PRAYER POINTS

20. Adoration. Praise God that He is sovereign, wise, and good. Praise God that He is creative. Praise God for being gracious and merciful. Praise God for being eternal and immutable. Praise God for being perfectly efficient.
21. Confess. Confess whatever ways you are living as if all that exists is under the sun. Confess ways you've given into the vanity of this world. Confess any ways you've been indifferent to your neighbor.
22. Thanksgiving. Thank God for inspiring a wide range of books in the Bible, from a wide range of authors. Thank God for the honesty of Ecclesiastes. Thank God for giving you a church to work through Ecclesiastes with. Thank God for glory above.
23. Supplication. Ask God to lift us above the clouds by His Word and Spirit. Ask God to grant us the fear of the Lord. Ask God to bring hope and help to those who despair at the vanity of this world. Ask God to save someone through the preaching of Ecclesiastes. Ask God to comfort the hurting.