

# SERMON OUTLINE Ecclesiastes 3:16-22

The Same for Opposites

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## **THE VANITY AND INJUSTICE OF THE SAME OUTCOME FOR OPPOSITES**

*Injustice (16)*

*The Same Outcome for Opposites (17-21)*

*The Preacher's Under the Sun Application (22)*

## **THE SOURCE OF THE PREACHER'S TENSION**

*God's Nature*

*Eternity in Us*

*Under the Sun*

## **AN ABOVE THE SUN PERSPECTIVE ON UNDER THE SUN INJUSTICES AND OUTCOME**

*The Unrighteousness of Mankind*

*The Righteousness of Jesus*

*The Spirit of God*

*The Promises of God*

# SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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## MAIN POINT

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The big idea here is that as the Preacher looked around, he saw injustice and vanity in that those on opposite ends of the moral spectrum (righteous and wicked) experienced the same outcome in their lives, even as those on opposite ends of the ontological spectrum (man and beast) experienced the same outcome in their deaths. And from all of this we are given two main takeaways: Rejoice in our work and look above the sun.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. What have you appreciated most about the first three chapters of Ecclesiastes?
3. How would you define justice/injustice and how important is it to you? How is unrighteousness different from injustice?
4. Have you ever felt the sting of injustice? Do you agree with Pastor Dave that it often hurts more than other sins?
5. Does it bother you that the righteous often experience the same kinds of injustice as the wicked or that man and beast have the same end? Why/not?
6. What do you make of the fact that the Preacher doesn't seem to know whether or not the spirit of man goes upward?
7. Consider the Preacher's several "nothing better" claims (2:24, 3:12-13, 3:22, 8:15). Do you agree with him?
8. How would you explain the tension the Preacher experienced between what he knew of God and what he experienced in life?
9. Which biblical truth or promise of God would you most want to share with the Preacher or someone who thinks like him?
10. In what way/s did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

## AREAS OF APPLICATION

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11. Read through Ecclesiastes again this week. Write down three things that stand out in light of what we've already covered.
12. Do your best to define justice as you usually hear it discussed and then as the Bible describes it.
13. Find one way to entrust an act of injustice done against you to God and one way to promote it for someone else.
14. Memorize one of God's promises or commands regarding justice/injustice in the world.
15. Memorize one promise of God regarding eternal life.
16. Share Ecclesiastes 3:16-22 with a non-Christian this week and ask if there's any part of it that seems right to them.
17. Find a way to work in greater joy this week.
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, with the Spirit's help, as a result of the things you heard in this text/sermon.

## PRAYER POINTS

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20. Adoration. Praise God that He is just, righteous, eternal, and spirit. Praise God that he is omniscient, always working and never growing tired. Praise God that He is sovereign, wise, and good. Praise God that He is just and justifier.
21. Confess. Confess any ways you've perpetrated or been indifferent to injustice. Confess any ways you've struggled to trust in God to establish justice. Confess any laziness or failure to work in joy. Confess any ways you're failing to trust God.
22. Thanksgiving. Thank God for His Word and His promises. Thank God for sending Jesus, Jesus for willingly coming, and the Spirit for empowering Jesus' ministry. Thank God for saving you even though you don't deserve it.
23. Supplication. Ask God to give grace to someone who does not deserve it. Ask God to use you as an instrument of justice for the weak. Ask God to deliver someone from the injustice of the wicked. Ask God to grant us greater hope in His promises. Ask God to help us have an above the sun perspective in all we do.