

# SERMON OUTLINE Ecclesiastes 4:4-16

Easter in Ecclesiastes

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## **INTRODUCTION**

### **PERPETUAL UNDER THE SUN TEMPTATIONS**

*Discontentment (4-6)*

*Isolation (7-12)*

*Attempting to Hold onto Worldly Power (13-16)*

### **EASTER IN ECCLESIASTES**

## **CONCLUSION**

# SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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## MAIN POINT

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The big idea of this sermon is that the only real and lasting solution to the problems we face in this life (physical, relational, emotional, and spiritual) is the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. The author of Ecclesiastes, the Preacher, was inspired by God to help us see that there are no lasting earthly solutions to our earthly or heavenly problems. The main takeaway, then, the primary response to this passage, is to surrender entirely to the risen Jesus.

## 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. Did you celebrate Easter growing up? If so, what did you do? How much of that is a part of your current Easter celebration?
3. Have you found anything to be particularly helpful in overcoming the numbing effect of the familiarity of Easter?
4. What is it that most tempts you toward discontentment? What have you tried to overcome it and did it work?
5. Do you struggle with envy, laziness, or being a workaholic? What have you tried to overcome it and did it work?
6. Do you ever feel like it would be better (or at least easier) if you were only responsible for yourself?
7. How have you experienced the fact that "part of what makes any gain meaningful is being able to bless loved ones with it"?
8. Which of the Preacher's four non-isolation proverbs most resonates with you (vs.9-12). How have you experienced each?
9. In what areas of your life are you trying to gain and hold onto power? What do you hope to accomplish with it?
10. Do you feel the vanity of these verses? Can you feel a longing for something greater than anything that is found under the sun? As you consider your work, relational trials, and longing for power, do you see that there must be more?
11. Do you know that sin (yours and/or others) is the real reason we experience hardship in life? Why does that matter?
12. In your own words, how is the resurrection the solution to all of this? How have you experienced that in your own life?
13. In what way/s did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

## AREAS OF APPLICATION

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14. Do your best to celebrate Easter in a manner consistent with its meaning and significance. Be creative. Be purposeful.
15. Find a way to explain the significance of Easter to someone who doesn't already believe it.
16. Fight against the sins of discontentment, isolation, and the pursuit of power by considering the resurrection.
17. Artistically portray (song, poem, painting, sketch, sculpture, etc.) the significance of the resurrection.
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 life. Praise God that He is perfectly efficient. Praise God that He is always working good. Praise God for His omnipresence and omnipotence. Praise God for His mercy and grace. Praise God for His all-sufficiency.
21. Confess. Confess the sin of envy, laziness, or workaholicism (or other form of discontentment). Confess the sin of isolation or a lack of love for your neighbor. Confess the sin of seeking worldly power for its own sake or for selfish gain. Confess the sin of minimizing the significance and glory of the resurrection in your life/family.
22. Thanksgiving. Thank God that Jesus is risen from the dead. Thank God that Jesus is the greatest treasure, an ever-present friend, and the King of kings. Thank God for granting you trust in Jesus and the salvation He brings through that.
23. Supplication. Ask God to open the eyes and heart of someone you love who does not know the power of the resurrection. Ask God to fill us with resurrection worship. Ask God to comfort the hurting. Ask God to put to death the remaining sin in us.