

SERMON OUTLINE Ecclesiastes 5:8-12

Systemic Oppression and Hollow Wealth

SYSTEMIC OPPRESSION (8-9)

Who Are the Oppressed?

What Is Oppression?

Why Is Oppression Not Surprising?

What Is the Alternative to Systemic Oppression?

HOLLOW WEALTH (10-12)

Money Can't Satisfy (10)

Wealth Brings Hangers-on (11)

Wealth Disrupts Sleep (12)

THE TWO GREATEST COMMANDMENTS TO END OPPRESSION

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

The big idea of this passage is that the love of money leads to all kinds of evils, including taking part in systems designed to oppress the poor. The main takeaways are to love God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength and your neighbor as yourself.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. What's the first thing that comes to mind when you think of "Systemic oppression"? Did this sermon change anything about it?
3. Have you ever witnessed the poor being oppressed? What did you see? How did you feel about that? What did you do?
4. Why are the poor so often the most oppressed? What does that mean from a biblical standpoint?
5. What's the difference between oppression and systemic oppression? Why does it matter?
6. Why is oppression not surprising according to the Preacher? Have you ever witnessed this?
7. What do you make of the Preacher's "alternative" to systemic oppression (v.9)? Why is that rarely the case?
8. Had you ever considered the connection between the love of money and the oppression of the poor?
9. Have you ever looked to money to provide satisfaction, friends, or peace? Have you ever been willing to compromise your conscience in order to get those things? What was the result?
10. Have you ever oppressed someone? Have you ever contributed to a system that does? Are you actively working against it?
11. In what way(s) are the two greatest commandments the solution to oppression? Have you ever seen this to be true?
12. Have you ever felt a tension between meeting someone's physical and spiritual needs? Which have you prioritized?
13. In what way/s did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

14. Find a very specific way to cultivate God-like hatred for oppression and systemic oppression.
15. Find a very specific way to meet a physical need of someone this week? As you do, think in terms of a long-term solution.
16. In an effort to weed out any love of money in you, find a way to be exceptionally generous in Jesus' name this week.
17. Find a very specific way to cultivate genuine love for God and neighbor.
18. Share the gospel with someone this week (ideally, someone who cares a great deal about oppression).
19. 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.
20. 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

21. Adoration. Praise God that He is a defender of the oppressed. Praise God for being just and righteous. Praise God for being King of kings. Praise God that He is love. Praise God that He is jealous for His glory. Praise God that everything is His.
22. Confess. Confess (and repent) of any ways you are exploiting someone or contributing to a system that does. Confess any attempts to offer solutions for oppression that fall short of or contradict what God's word teaches. Confess any love of money. Confess any ways in which you fail to love God above all and your neighbor as yourself.
23. Thanksgiving. Thank God that He has rescued you from sin's oppression and the world's systemic attempt to keep you in it. Thank God for whoever shared the gospel with you. Thank God for providing all you need. Thank God for giving you peace.
24. Supplication. Ask God to use Grace Church to rescue the physically and spiritually oppressed. Ask God to give us His hatred for oppression and His love for justice. Ask God to kill your love of money. Ask God to give us rest. Ask God to help us be means of working in love against systems of oppression. Ask God to give us clear applications to today's text/sermon.