

SERMON OUTLINE Ecclesiastes 6:1-9

The Most Miserable Life

A HEAVY EVIL (1)

Having Everything You Want (2a)

Without the Power to Enjoy (2b)

THE MOST MISERABLE LIFE (3-6)

DRIVING THE POINT HOME (7-9)

THE GREATEST GOOD AND THE MOST MARVELOUS LIFE

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

The big idea of this sermon is that the most miserable life is the life that has access to every possible under the sun source of joy, found them all insufficient, and has not been given the gift of joy in God. The main takeaway, therefore, is to fix our eyes on Jesus.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. How would you describe the most miserable life? What are the key ingredients of your worst life now? What kinds of things would be in and missing from it? Who would and wouldn't be a part of it? What kind of suffering do you most want to avoid?
3. Look up Psalm 88:3, Isaiah 24:1, Ecclesiastes 6:1, and 8:6. In what sense is the phrase "lies heavy" used in those verses?
4. What is something that "lies heavy" on you? Where does the weight come from?
5. How much and what kind of wealth, possessions, and honor do you think you'd need to be really and lastingly happy?
6. Have you ever felt the lack of God-given joy? What was that like?
7. Which seems worse: (1) Having nothing and no God-given joy, or (2) Having everything and no God-given joy? Why?
8. In light of this passage and sermon, is it easy to see why the second option is worse?
9. Can you think of anything you really wanted, believing it to be the greatest thing, only to get it and quickly lose interest?
10. Take a look at 1 Timothy 6:7-11, Hebrews 12:1-2, and Colossians 3:2-4. Where is the most marvelous life found?
11. How have you found Jesus to be a greater treasure than all of everything else?
12. In what way/s did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

13. Repent of seeking joy in created things apart from their Creator. Name them. Confess each specifically to God as He brings them to mind. Get rid of anything that you're idolatrously holding onto.
14. Ask a non-Christian to read and discuss Ecclesiastes 6:1-6 with you. Ask them if they've found any of it to be true in their lives. Share with them how you've found it to be true in yours. Tell them about Jesus as the all-satisfying treasure.
15. Mix vinegar and baking soda with your kids. Explain to them how stuff and godlessness combined do the same thing.
16. Read the book, "The Things of Earth," by Joe Rigney.
17. 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.
18. 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

19. Adoration. Praise God that all things belong to Him, that He is King of kings and Lord of lords. Praise God that He is infinitely glorious and honorable. Praise God that He lacks nothing. Praise God that He is the greatest treasure. Praise God that He is omnipotent, infinite, and personal. Praise God that He is righteous and good. Praise God that He is the Father of all living.
20. Confess. Confess the sin of looking to things other than God to satisfy—wealth, possessions, honor, power, children, or long life. Confess a lack of satisfaction in God. Confess selfishness and pride. Confess a lack of weeping with those who weep and concern for the poor and needy. Confess contentment with folly and striving after wind. Confess wandering eyes.
21. Thanksgiving. Thank God that He is all satisfying and offers Himself freely to all in Christ. Thank God for giving good gifts that point to Him. Thank God for being always near. Thank God for whatever life, fruitfulness and productivity He's granted.
22. Supplication. Pray for anyone you know that has had a stillborn baby. Ask God to grant someone eyes to see His glory and satisfaction in Him. Ask God to fill us with His joy. Ask God to help us see the folly of seeking joy outside of Him.