Is This It? - Eccl 5
October 18, 2026

Message Recap

Solomon had experienced extraordinary wealth, success, and possessions, yet discovered that none of them could provide lasting satisfaction. In Ecclesiastes 5, he challenges us to examine not only our relationship with money and possessions, but also our relationship with God.

First, Solomon reminds us to approach God with reverence, listening more and speaking less. Prayer isn't about convincing God to approve our plans or making promises we don't intend to keep. It's about genuine surrender and obedience. He then warns that loving money and possessions will leave us continually wanting more. When we become consumed with protecting what we own, our possessions can actually begin to own us.

Finally, Solomon reveals that God gives us two gifts: what we have and the ability to enjoy it. Too often, we're asking God for more instead of asking Him to help us appreciate what He's already provided. True contentment comes when we stop trying to accumulate more and begin receiving life with gratitude, trusting God and living with open hands.

Icebreaker / Personal Reflection

- **Icebreaker:**
  What's your go-to national chain restaurant? (Think Chili's, Applebees, Longhorn, etc.)

- **Reflection:**
  What part of the message resonated with you the most?

Discussion Questions

1. Ecclesiastes 5:1–2 tells us to approach God ready to listen rather than speak. Why do you think listening to God can be more difficult than talking to Him? What might it look like to make more room for listening in your prayer life?

2. The message challenged us to consider whether we're sometimes asking God to bless decisions we've already made rather than seeking His direction. Why is it tempting to approach prayer this way? How can we recognize when we're doing it?

3. Ecclesiastes 5:4–6 warns against making promises to God that we don't keep. Why do you think it's sometimes easier to make a commitment to God in an emotional moment than to follow through in everyday life? What helps us turn good intentions into consistent obedience?

4. How can our desire to protect what we've worked hard for sometimes rob us of the joy of having it? How do we balance being responsible stewards of God's blessings with trusting Him for our security?

5. Why do you think it's sometimes easier to recognize God's blessings in hindsight than to appreciate them while we're experiencing them? How can we become more intentional about recognizing His goodness in everyday life?

For Additional Study

1 Timothy 6:6–10, 17–19

"But godliness with contentment is great gain." — 1 Timothy 6:6 (NIV)

Questions:

- Paul warns that the desire to get rich can lead people away from their faith. How can we distinguish between healthy financial goals and placing our hope or security in money?

- In verse 17, Paul encourages us to put our hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. How does this reinforce Solomon's teaching in Ecclesiastes 5?

- Paul encourages believers to be generous and willing to share. What's one practical way you could demonstrate greater contentment or generosity with what God has entrusted to you this week?