Why You’re Not Satisfied September 18, 2022

*Ecclesiastes 1:1-11 Series: Israel’s Greatest Philosopher*

Life has value only when it has something valuable as its object. - Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel

Intro: When will it be enough for Tom Brady?

1. You never arrive
2. Life is like a puff of smoke

v. 1 *the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem*

v. 2 *Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.*

Psalm 39:5 *Surely all mankind stands as a mere breath!*

James 4:14 *What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.*

1. Life in this world doesn’t yield a profit

v. 3 *What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun?*

1. You’ll never be satisfied if you live like you’ll arrive someday

v. 4 *A generation goes, and a generation comes, but the earth remains forever.*

v. 5 *The sun rises, and the sun goes down, and hastens to the place where it rises.*

v. 6 *The wind blows to the south and goes around to the north; around and around goes the wind, and on its circuits the wind returns.*

* What are some of the milestones about which people think, “When I reach that, I’ll be satisfied”?
* Why might Solomon have thought that he had arrived?
* Why might “arriving” have felt empty to Solomon?
* Why do Olympians often fall into depression after they win?

1. It’s never enough
2. The seas never overflow

v. 7 *All streams run to the sea, but the sea is not full; to the place where the streams flow, there they flow again.*

1. Our senses are never full

v. 8 *All things are full of weariness; a man cannot utter it; the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing.*

1. If you live for the stuff, it’ll never be enough

Proverbs 27:20 *Sheol and Abaddon are never satisfied, and never satisfied are the eyes of man.*

Ecclesiastes 5:10 *He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity.*

Matthew 16:26 *For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?*

* How does a stream endlessly emptying into the sea illustrate the hunger to satisfy our desires?
* Solomon was the richest king in his lifetime. Why might he have been tempted to think that he needed more?
* If we know that the stuff will never be enough, how should it change how we live?

1. There’s nothing new
2. History keeps repeating itself

v. 9 *What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun.*

1. Why do we keep searching for the next new thing?

v. 10 *Is there a thing of which it is said, “See, this is new”? It has been already in the ages before us.*

1. How many of your great-grandparents can you name?

v. 11 *There is no remembrance of former things, nor will there be any remembrance of later things yet to be among those who come after.*

1. What if eternal life is the destination and the only thing that is truly new and really satisfies?

Isaiah 43:19 *Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.*

John 10:10 *I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*

2 Corinthians 5:17 *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

* There are many new inventions and products every year, but in what sense is there nothing new?
* What are some examples of ways that we can be frantic about “the latest thing”?
* If you believe that there’s nothing new, how will it change the way you live?
* How should we live if life is like a puff of smoke?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study Ecclesiastes 2:1-26

Notes