

# CHASING THE WIND

## Part 5: Worship & Wealth

June 1 & 2, 2019

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### So far, Solomon chased after meaning in...

Wisdom (*Ecclesiastes 1:13*)

Wine - pleasure, laughter, foolish behavior (*Ecclesiastes 2:1*)

Work (*Ecclesiastes 2:4-11*)

Wealth (*Ecclesiastes 2:8*)

Worldly relationships (*Ecclesiastes 2:8, 1 Kings 11:3*)

...and his conclusion was that it was all meaningless.

### Ecclesiastes 5

Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. Go near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools, who do not know that they do wrong.

<sup>2</sup> Do not be quick with your mouth, do not be hasty in your heart to utter anything before God.

God is in heaven

and you are on earth,

so let your words be few.

<sup>3</sup> A dream comes when there are many cares, and many words mark the speech of a fool.

<sup>4</sup> When you make a vow to God, do not delay to fulfill it. He has no pleasure in fools; fulfill your vow. <sup>5</sup> It is better not to make a vow than to make one and not fulfill it. <sup>6</sup> Do not let your mouth lead you into sin. And do not protest to the temple messenger, "My vow was a mistake." Why should God be angry at what you say and destroy the work of your hands? <sup>7</sup> Much dreaming and many words are meaningless. Therefore, fear God.

### Wisdom in Worship

Listen first and listen well

Let your words be few

Stand in awe of God

### Wisdom in Wealth

The more you have, the more you want (*verse 10*)

The more you have, the more people want to take (*verse 11*)

The more you have, the more you worry about loss (*verse 12*)

The more you have, the more prone you are to greed (*verse 13*)

## **Ecclesiastes 5:18-20**

<sup>18</sup> This is what I have observed to be good: that it is appropriate for a person to eat, to drink and to find satisfaction in their toilsome labor under the sun during the few days of life God has given them—for this is their lot. <sup>19</sup> Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and the ability to enjoy them, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil—this is a gift of God. <sup>20</sup> They seldom reflect on the days of their life, because God keeps them occupied with gladness of heart.

### **A new conclusion:**

**Working hard and enjoying the fruit of righteous labor is a gift from God**

## **Next Steps: Calling All Landlords!**

If you've worked hard and invested your resources into owning rental property, we want to help you meaningfully leverage your toil to help people who are actively rebuilding their lives.

Pastor Wendy Powell would love to connect with you over lunch this Sunday from 12:30 to 2:00 PM in Room 212. Join with other landlords to share your thoughts, hear about emerging ideas with our community partners, and listen for how God might be directing you.

If you're unable to attend the lunch, you can also contact Wendy for more information ([wendyp@ctk.church](mailto:wendyp@ctk.church) or 733-1337).

## **Small Group Questions**

- 1) What are you excited about as we approach the season of summer?
- 2) Which of the areas where Solomon chased meaning (first outline section) have you also pursued as a source of comfort? What is your conclusion?
- 3) What is authentic worship to you? How do you worship outside of church?
- 4) Which of the wealth lessons hits home for you? Why?
- 5) What is the most meaningful work experience you have ever had? What made it meaningful?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?