

DIDN'T SEE IT
COMING



PART 6: FILLING THE EMPTINESS

Sermon Notes

Text: Ecclesiastes 2:3-11

Intro:

Overcoming the greatest challenges that no one expects and everyone experiences.

Sometimes cravings seem to come from the soul

Ecclesiastes 2:3-11 - King Solomon had everything anyone could ever dream of, but found the pursuits of this world meaningless

Ecclesiastes 1:8 (NLT)

"I think everybody should get rich and famous and do everything they ever dreamed of so they can see that it's not the answer." ~Jim Carey

"It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased." ~C.S. Lewis

"There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of each man which cannot be satisfied by any created thing but only by God" ~Blaise Pascal

How do we live a more satisfying life?

1. Stop eating dirt

"Creatures are not born with desires unless satisfaction for those desires exists. A baby feels hunger: well, there is such a thing as food. A duckling wants to swim: well, there is such a thing as water. Men feel sexual desire: well, there is such a thing as sex. If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world" ~C.S. Lewis

Matthew 5:6; John 4:13-14

2. Remove yourself from the centre of your life

Most people tend to filter life through this question: What's in it for me?

Matthew 16:25-26

The only thing more terrifying than dying to yourself is living for yourself.

3. Find a mission that's bigger than you

"If you want to beat emptiness, find a mission that's bigger than you."
~Carey Nieuwhof

Matthew 6:28-33

All the striving and hoarding and accumulation in the world can't buy you what God can give you for free out of his power and love for you.

"Aim at heaven and you will get earth thrown in. Aim at earth and you get neither." ~C.S. Lewis

Conclusion:

Life Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. What's your go-to snack when you have a craving? Why? Do you ever sense a craving of the soul that snacks (or other material things) can't satisfy? Where does that come from?
2. What stood out to you about Sunday's sermon? What was interesting? Confusing? Weird? Thought provoking?

Study & Discussion:

1. Read Ecclesiastes 2:3-11. When people like Solomon, Bill Gates and Jim Carey all try to warn us that pursuing fame and riches doesn't satisfy the soul, why do we have such a hard time believing them? What's the key to avoid the snare of pursuing these things?
2. Read John 4:7-26. Jesus often used the metaphor of water to talk about the presence of the Holy Spirit. Water is refreshing, cleansing and is essential for life. What stands out to you in this story? What is Jesus saying about filling the emptiness?
 - Now read Matthew 5:6. What is righteousness? HOW do you "hunger and thirst" for it?
3. What motivates you? When you're at work, what motivates you to do a good job and work hard? What motivates you in your parenting? In your marriage? In your faith? When we're de-motivated, what reminders can we put in our lives to remember the bigger picture & the bigger mission of God's kingdom?

Application:

1. What does it mean to "...seek first [God's] kingdom and his righteousness"? How will you do that this week?

Prayer:

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