



Morningside Church

Sermon Discussion Guide

Title: Searching

Date: February 8, 2026

Scripture Text: Ecclesiastes 1:1-2, 12:11-13

Notes:

In our culture today, it is hard not to get bombarded with advertisements with the message “you deserve a break today”, “you’re worth it”, “just do it”, “have it your way”, etc. It is easy to be self-consumed with “what I want” and become driven by what we want more than how we may help meet another’s needs or more importantly, what does God want. We all find ourselves searching for satisfaction, but the question is, where are we looking. History shows how items such as knowledge, pleasure, possessions have been sought after, and time and time again have failed. They each may meet a need temporarily, but do not hit the target. There is only One who can satisfy, and that is Christ!

I. The Search Begins (Eccl. 1:1-2)

The book of Ecclesiastes was written by King Solomon, son of King David and Bathsheba. Soon after his ascension to the throne, God appeared to him in a dream and asked what He could give him ([1 Kings 3:5-14](#)). Solomon asked for wisdom to know how to rule God’s people. God was pleased with his response and not only gave him wisdom, but also riches and honor. He was known as the wisest man ever! Yet, even with the wisdom God bestowed, obedience was required on Solomon’s part. Over time, he entered alliances with other nations who were pagan and brought wives and concubines into his home who brought their foreign gods with them. Soon, Solomon lost his focus on God and pursued these worldly, ungodly things. He eventually realizes how empty it all was. Apart from God, there was no satisfaction.

- Solomon begins Ecclesiastes with the statement that everything is meaningless (vanity, futility, pointless). What are examples of meaningless things people pursue today.
- How does the phrase ‘attempting to grab smoke/vapor’ paint a telling picture of the pursuit of these meaningless things?

II. The Search for Knowledge (Eccl. 1:16-18)

Solomon was the wisest person, ever! People would come from all over to experience his wisdom. Yet even wisdom can be misapplied when motivated by selfish desires. Wisdom, when filtered through God and His word can bring comfort. But the knowledge Solomon obtained through his wisdom brought sorrow because he used it for personal gain and not godly purposes. He described his pursuit of knowledge as chasing the wind. Knowledge did not satisfy.



Morningside Church

Sermon Discussion Guide

Notes:

- What does the phrase “knowledge is power” mean?
- What are ways knowledge is pursued as a means of bringing satisfaction?
- How can knowledge bring about sorrow?
- How can knowledge combined with the application of God’s word bring peace?

III. Searching for Pleasure (Eccl. 2:1, 10)

Solomon also sought satisfaction through pleasure. “I denied myself no pleasure”, “all that my eyes desired I did not refuse them”. Solomon showed no restraint when pursuing his personal pleasure. But pleasure outside the bounds of God is empty, meaningless. Pleasure did not satisfy.

- What are examples of pleasure people seek after today?
- Solomon describes seeking pleasure from alcohol, food, and sexual relationships. Why do these things not bring lasting satisfaction?

IV. Searching for Possessions (Eccl. 2:4-8, 11)

Solomon also sought satisfaction through possessions. Anything he wanted, he was able to get. “I had everything a man could desire”. By the wisdom provided by God, he was able to accumulate great wealth. But he used that wealth to acquire *things*. He eventually describes the pursuit of possessions as meaningless, like chasing the wind. Possessions did not satisfy.

- Why is the desire for possessions (things) such a great temptation?
- How would you describe our culture when it relates to possessions?
- What would you say to someone who is pursuing possessions as a means to satisfaction?

V. The Search is Over (Eccl. 12:11-13)

Solomon ends the book of Ecclesiastes with what brings about real, lasting satisfaction: “fear God and obey His commands” ([vs. 13b](#)). Solomon wrote Ecclesiastes as a way of sharing what he learned the hard way and for those who follow (us) not to make the same mistakes.

- Solomon makes the point to ‘fear God’. What does it mean and what does it look like to fear God?
- A healthy fear of God requires a relationship with Him. Describe your relationship with God. How do you fear Him?
- He also makes the point to obey His commands. How well to you know God’s word?
- Why is obedience to God’s word dependent on knowing God’s word?

Solomon realized that only God could satisfy. How often do you look for satisfaction in other places? How have you found satisfaction in Christ?