

CHASING THE WIND

Part 6: Investing in a Legacy

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Ecclesiastes 6

I have seen another evil under the sun, and it weighs heavily on mankind: ²God gives some people wealth, possessions and honor, so that they lack nothing their hearts desire, but God does not grant them the ability to enjoy them, and strangers enjoy them instead. This is meaningless, a grievous evil.

³A man may have a hundred children and live many years; yet no matter how long he lives, if he cannot enjoy his prosperity and does not receive proper burial, I say that a stillborn child is better off than he. ⁴It comes without meaning, it departs in darkness, and in darkness its name is shrouded. ⁵Though it never saw the sun or knew anything, it has more rest than does that man— ⁶even if he lives a thousand years twice over but fails to enjoy his prosperity. Do not all go to the same place?

⁷Everyone's toil is for their mouth, yet their appetite is never satisfied.

⁸What advantage have the wise over fools?

What do the poor gain by knowing how to conduct themselves before others?

⁹Better what the eye sees than the roving of the appetite. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

¹⁰Whatever exists has already been named, and what humanity has been known; no one can contend with someone who is stronger.

¹¹The more the words, the less the meaning, and how does that profit anyone?

¹²For who knows what is good for a person in life, during the few and meaningless days they pass through like a shadow? Who can tell them what will happen under the sun after they are gone?

John 11:33-35

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. "Where have you laid him?" he asked.

"Come and see, Lord," they replied. Jesus wept.

Ecclesiastes 6:1-2

I have seen another evil under the sun, and it weighs heavily on mankind: God gives some people wealth, possessions, and honor so that they lack nothing their heart desires, but God does not grant them the ability to enjoy them, and strangers enjoy them instead. This is meaningless, a grievous evil.

Meaningless wealth says, "Get more stuff and you'll be happy".

Life in Christ can be different.

I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength. – Philippians 4:12-13

Meaningful wealth says, “Invest what you have in God’s kingdom and you will be blessed.”

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. – Malachi 3:10

What do you have that you could invest in God’s kingdom?

Ecclesiastes 6:3

A man may have a hundred children and live many years; yet no matter how long he lives, if he cannot enjoy his prosperity and does not receive proper burial, I say that a stillborn child is better off than he.

Meaningless relationships die with you.

Meaningful relationships produce a legacy that lasts.

These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.
– Deuteronomy 6:6-7

What is one thing you can start doing to produce a legacy that will last?

Ecclesiastes 6:12

For who knows what is good for a person in life, during the few and meaningless days they pass through like a shadow? Who can tell them what will happen under the sun after they are gone?

Small Group Questions

- 1) What is one thing that is particularly hard for you not to want the latest and greatest of? (ex: phone, tool, care, self improvement plan)
- 2) What do you have that you could invest in God’s kingdom? What could that look like?
- 3) What is one thing you could start doing to produce a legacy that will last?
- 4) What is one area (time, money, schedule, relationships etc.) where you want to live differently but find your still settling for vapor?
- 5) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?