



Ecclesiastes

Teacher: Ruth Christian

©Naomi's Table 2015

Lesson 5 Study Notes – Ecclesiastes 2:12-23

Pray

Review: Solomon is a search for the meaning to life. Last lesson he looked for meaning in pleasure, as well as in works & accomplishments. Now in Ecclesiastes 2:12 he says “I turned myself to behold” simply means “I considered things from another viewpoint”. In our verses for today, he looks at wisdom (v12-17) and his wealth (v 18-23) in light of the certainty of death

Reflect:

1. *Read chapter 2.* The certainty of death is a topic Solomon frequently mentions in Ecclesiastes. *Read the following verses: 1:4; 2:14-17; 3:-20; 5:15-16; 6:6; 8:8; 9:2-3, 12; 12:7-8.* Why do you think he brings it up so much? From what perspective is Solomon looking at life?

2. How might his various (and unsuccessful) pursuits have prompted this repeated theme?

3. Though Solomon was born into wealth and acquired more wealth, Solomon **gives 3 reasons** why from the “under the sun” perspective, he was disgusted with wealth (especially with the common person in mind).

a. Ecclesiastes 2:18

b. Ecclesiastes 2:19-20

c. Ecclesiastes 2:21-23

4. What do these reasons tell us about Solomon? About the pursuit of money as a life goal?

Respond:

1. We are stewards of our wealth. What does Deut. 8:18 tells us?

2. We have the privilege of enjoying wealth (money, material possessions) and using it for His glory. How does Matt. 6:19-34 answer the question “If we can’t take it with us, what’s the point of wealth?”

3. Have you ever made the pursuit of wealth a life goal? If so, why? How did that work out? Or, if you’re still pursuing wealth, how is it going now? Where does your faith intersect with the goal of pursuing wealth?