

sermon notes

November 14, 2021 | Pastor Tony Caffey, Harvest Decatur
Vanity Fair | "Dealing with Disappointment" | Ecclesiastes 6:1-12

Three Disappointing Things in Life:

1) _____ without _____
(6:1-6)

2) _____ without _____
(6:7-9)

3) _____ without _____
(6:10-12)

Questions for further application of God's Word:

GO DEEPER

Read Ecclesiastes 6:1-2. Are there any examples that come to mind of a person who worked hard for something and never got to enjoy it? Maybe because of an early death, bad business venture, etc.? What is the warning that Solomon gives us in this passage? Is he being cynical or is he trying to teach us something?

Read Ecclesiastes 6:3-6. According to Solomon, what is worse in this life than being a still born child? Is Solomon exaggerating to make a point (hyperbolizing?) or do you think he really means this? Are there other exaggerations in the text (e.g. 100 children, 1000 years)? How do we safeguard against working so hard and mindlessly, that we don't enjoy life along the way?

GET PERSONAL

What does Solomon mean in verse 7 when he says, "All the toil of man is for his mouth, yet his appetite is not satisfied"? Is this talking about food only? If you won the lottery today and had millions of dollars at your disposal, do you think you would be satisfied? Why or why not? What would it take for you to be totally satisfied in this life?

Life is filled with disappointment. List some of the disappointments that you have experienced. How do we properly process our disappointments before the LORD? How do we prevent our disappointments from turning into discontentment (see Matt 6:33; Luke 12:15; Phil 4:11-13; 1 Tim 6:6-8; Heb 13:5)? Should we take our disappointments (disputes?) to God like Job did in the OT? Why or why not?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Solomon makes a few more passing references to death in chapter 6. Why does he talk about death so much in this book? How does contemplating death help you live your life better? How does it help you view money and possessions more biblically? Make a list of things you want said about you at your funeral. How do you want to be remembered? Are you okay with being forgotten in a few generations? Why or why not?

ADVANCED QUESTION

Read Ecclesiastes 6:10-12. Solomon says in verse 10 that God is sovereign over all the events of our lives. Is this a comfort to Solomon or a confusion? Is this a comfort to you? Read the following article by John Piper and consider how God's sovereignty might be an abiding comfort to us:

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/plunge-your-mind-into-the-ocean-of-gods-sovereignty>