

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, July 17, 2005

Passage: Ecclesiastes 6

Memory Passage: John 12:26

TODAY: *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Ecclesiastes 6:1-2.** Read these verses in a couple of other translations and at least one paraphrase. What are the differences in these? What new insights have you gained from this comparison?
- (b) What is this evil that Solomon says he has seen? How is this common? What is Solomon referring to – the gaining of wealth or the desire for it?
- (c) In what way is this “common” to man? Can we say that all men have this benefit? Consider Matthew 5:43-48, esp. 45.
- (d) What did God promise Israel He would do if they did not follow Him with all their hearts (Deuteronomy 28:33)? Does this principle also apply to individuals too? What is Solomon teaching here?
- (e) Why does God give us all these things (1 Timothy 6:17)? How are we to *use* all that God has given us (1 Timothy 6:17-19; 1 Peter 4:10-11; Romans 12:6-8)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Ecclesiastes 6:1-2 and Matthew 5:43-48. Talk about the “common grace” of God on all men. Why has God given us so much? What does He expect us to do with the blessings He gives us? Spend time thanking God for all the blessings He has given to you.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Ecclesiastes 6:2-6.** What happens to all that this man has (Ecclesiastes 6:2)?
- (b) Read Malachi 1:6-14. How had the people dishonored God? How do people dishonor God today?
- (c) What does God say He will do for those who will not honor Him with their finances in Malachi 3:8-9? What promise does He give to those who will honor Him with their finances (Malachi 3:10-12)?
- (d) What is God’s promise in Proverbs 3:9-10? What promise does God give to Israel in Isaiah 65:17-22?
- (e) How do these compare to Ecclesiastes 6:2? What one thing is required of stewards according to 1 Corinthians 4:1-2?
- (f) *Family:* Read Malachi 1:6-14 and 3:8-12. Talk together about the meaning of stewardship. How does a view of ourselves as stewards change our attitudes toward possessions? Are you using what God has given you to honor Him? Pray that God will open your eyes to see *how* you can use all that you have to honor Him and please Him.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Ecclesiastes 6:3-6.** What is the OT attitude toward children (Psalm 127:4-5; Proverbs 17:6)? *How* blessed is the man in Ecclesiastes 6:3?
- (b) How else is this man blessed (Psalm 91:14-16; Deuteronomy 5:33; Ephesians 6:1-3)?
- (c) Why is this man not blessed even though he has many children and long life? How do these blessings from God become a curse for him?
- (d) *What* does Solomon conclude about this (verse 3)? *Why* does he conclude this (verses 3-6)?
- (e) What is the one situation when it is *really* better to have not been born according to Matthew 26:24?
- (f) *Family:* Read Ecclesiastes 6:3-6. Talk about the ways that this man was blessed. How can one’s blessing become a curse? Read Matthew 26:24. Talk about the importance of knowing Christ for eternal life. Pray together for someone who does not know Christ.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Ecclesiastes 6:7-9.** How is the “sight of the eyes” better than the “wandering of desire?” What modern expression says this same thing? Why is this vanity and grasping for the wind?
- (b) What should our attitude be toward all God has given us (Ecclesiastes 3:13; 5:18-19)? What did Paul say about this in 1 Timothy 6:6-10 and Philippians 4:11-13?
- (c) **Read Ecclesiastes 6:10-11.** *What issue* is Solomon speaking about in these verses? What is the doctrine behind these verses (also see Ephesians 1:11; Psalm 139:1-4; 16; Ecclesiastes 3:1, 11)?
- (d) *Who* is he speaking about (Job 9:12; 11:10)? Why should we not contend with Him (Romans 11:33-36; Isaiah 45:9-10; 55:8-9)?
- (e) What does Solomon conclude in verse 11? Do longer years, more children, more money, etc. mean greater happiness? What alone will give us the satisfaction we seek? Read John 12:23-26. Why (Ecclesiastes 3:11)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Ecclesiastes 6:7-11 and 1 Timothy 6:6-10. Talk about the lure of desires, always wanting more. How can our desires keep us from enjoying what God has given us? What is contentment? Who is happier: the contented person or the desiring person? Why? Thank God for all He has given to you and your family and pray that each will have a heart that rejoices in what you have, not complaining about what you do not have.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Ecclesiastes 6:12.** What two questions does Solomon conclude this chapter with? How would you answer these two questions?

(b) What is “good for man” according to these verses – Lamentations 3:26-27; Ecclesiastes 2:24; 3:12; 11:9-10; 12:1, 13-14?

(c) Read Matthew 25:13-29. Has God given us all the same? What does this tell us about His providence and wisdom? What should this teach us about contentment?

(d) What does the master desire that each servant do with what He has given them? What attitude keeps the third servant from serving with all his heart? What other attitudes keep people from serving the Lord?

(e) What is your desire for your life? Read 2 Timothy 2:20-21. What kind of vessel do you want to be in the Master’s house?

(f) *Family:* Read Ecclesiastes 6:12 and Matthew 25:31-46. What actions in our lives please God? What kinds of things does Jesus commend in Matthew 25? Talk together as a family about how you can honor the Lord by doing some of these things as a family. Pray that God will give each of you a heart to serve Him.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Talk together about the blessings that God has given you as individuals and as a family. How are you using these blessings—only for yourselves or for His honor? What does it mean to serve the Lord with all of your heart? How can you do this with your time, your talents, and your finances? Does God keep His promise to honor those that honor Him? Pray that you will have a heart of loving service for the One who loved you first.

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Serving with Gladness!

“If anyone serves me, my Father will honor him.”