

Ecclesiastes 5

Part 1: Wisdom for Worship

Part 2: Wisdom for Wealth

Part 1: Wisdom for Worship

1 Guard your steps when you go to the house of God.

Go near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools, who do not know that they do wrong.

2 Do not be quick with your mouth, do not be hasty in your heart to utter anything before God.

God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few.

3 A dream comes when there are many cares, and many words mark the speech of a fool.

4 When you make a vow to God, do not delay to fulfil it.

He has no pleasure in fools; fulfil your vow.

5 It is better not to make a vow than to make one and not fulfil it.

6 Do not let your mouth lead you into sin.

7 Much dreaming and many words are meaningless.

Therefore fear God.

Part 2: Wisdom for Wealth

"I have a fantastic relationship with money.

I use it to buy my freedom."

Gianni Versace

10 Whoever loves money never has enough;

whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income.

This too is meaningless.

11 As goods increase, so do those who consume them.

And what benefit are they to the owners except to feast their eyes on them?

"The love of money grows by what it feeds on." Derek Kidner



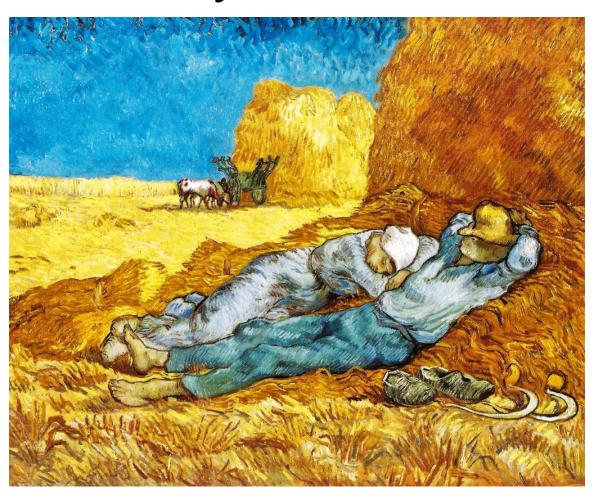
"People worship idols - money, whatever. Their humanness gets reshaped around the idol we become shaped by the idol we worship. That's one of the basic spiritual laws."

NT Wright

Matthew 6 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

24 'No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

12 The sleep of a labourer is sweet, whether they eat little or much



12 but as for the rich, their abundance permits them no sleep.





13 I have seen a grievous evil under the sun: wealth hoarded to the harm of its owners



"If anything is worse than an addiction to money and wealth, it's the emptiness it leaves. Humanity, with eternity in our hearts, needs better nourishment than this"

Derek Kidner



Breaking Free

a. Grasp the Bigger Picture

15 Everyone comes naked from their mother's womb, and as everyone comes, so they depart.

They take nothing from their toil that they can carry in their hands.

16 As everyone comes, so they depart, and what do they gain, since they toil for the wind?

17 All their days they eat in darkness, with great frustration, affliction and anger.

Ecclesiastes 4 6 Better one handful with tranquillity than two handfuls with toil and chasing after the wind.

Breaking Free

a. Grasp the Bigger Pictureb. Practice Gratitude

18 This is what I have observed to be good: that it is appropriate for a person to eat, to drink and to find satisfaction in their toilsome labour under the sun during the few days of life God has given them —for this is their lot.

19 Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and the ability to enjoy them, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil—this is a gift of God.

20 They seldom reflect on the days of their life, because God keeps them occupied with gladness of heart.

Breaking Free

a. Grasp the Bigger Pictureb. Practice Gratitudec. Choose to Walk in Freedom

Choose Trusting not Grasping Matthew 6 31 So do not worry, saying, "What shall we eat?" or "What shall we drink?" or "What shall we wear?" 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Choose Giving not Hoarding

Matthew 19
16 Just then a man came up to
Jesus and asked, 'Teacher, what
good thing must I do to get eternal
life?'

...20 'All these I have kept,' the young man said. 'What do I still lack?'

21 Jesus answered, 'If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.' 22 When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.

Choose Godliness not Foolishness

1 Timothy 6. 9 Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

1 Timothy 6 6 godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. 8 But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.

Ecclesiastes 4 6 Better one handful with tranquillity than two handfuls with toil and chasing after the wind.