

Ecclesiastes Sermon Series: Week of June 16, 2024

2023-24 Aim Check-in

- Becoming disciples who make disciples, who make disciples.
- Creating a community of faith that meaningfully engages our community of residence.
- 1. Since you last met as a H2H group, have you made any movement towards the aims we've set?
- 2. How might we as a H2H group help support or encourage you towards these aims?

Discussion Questions Set #1

"Go, eat your food with gladness, and drink your wine with a joyful heart, for God has already approved what you do. Always be clothed in white, and always anoint your head with oil. Enjoy life with your wife, whom you love, all the days of this meaningless life that God has given you under the sun—all your meaningless days. (Ecclesiastes 9:7-9)

In sermon, it was suggested that the Teacher concludes that because death is the great levelling agent in existence, it really doesn't matter how one lives – the clean and the unclean, the good and the sinner all under up six feet under.

- 1. From what you've observed, how do those yet to follow Jesus handle the challenge of death? How is death viewed culturally and what choices does this viewpoint make more ready-made?
- 2. Discuss what is meant by suggesting that the Teacher believes that "the end negates or nullifies the means".
- 3. Compare these two life mottos: "it doesn't matter what you do because you're going to die" versus "it really matters what you do because you're going to die".
- 4. In sermon it was suggested that we have been taught to have a "split relationship" with the moment, namely that we are to both fear the moment and be cavalier about it. Fearing the moment leads to "paralysis by analysis" while remaining cavalier about the moment can lead to destructive and reckless snap decisions. If you had to choose one orientation fear vs. cavalier which would you say best describes your take on the moment? What does this result in for you?
- 5. Do you think we take seriously the limited number of moments we have in life? Why or why not?
- 6. Do some quick math ... how many moments do you reserve for God each day? Do not think of this in terms of private devotions or "quiet time" with God, but rather as intentional, immediate and influential moments where Jesus is a present reality.
- 7. If you could snap you fingers and immediately be granted additional moments in life, what would you spend them doing?

Discussion Questions Set #2

"Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might." (Ecclesiastes 9:10)

"Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes." (James 4:14)

"A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, and the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous." (Proverbs 13:22)

- 1. Discuss how living with the following focusses might change the way you budget your time, energy and finances:
 - i. Intentionality
 - ii. Immediacy
 - iii. Influence
- 2. Of the three focusses, which do you feel you "have in the bag"? Which of the three is a challenge to implement in your life?
- 3. What kinds of things ease or hinder living with these three focusses in place?
- 4. How might you overcome such hindrances?

