

Ecclesiastes 5

Climbing The Ladder to Nowhere

1. Not many people would say that money gives their life meaning. So why do so many people value money so highly?

Read Ecclesiastes 5:8-9

2. Where does wealth come from?

3. "It's good to be king." Why?

Read Ecclesiastes 5:8-20

4. In the following verses, *how does wealth bring disappointment?* And what would the wealthy have hoped it would bring?

	Disappointment	Hoped it'd bring...
5:10-11		
5:12		
5:13-14		

5. What makes wealth a total failure in the end (15-16)?

6. In the end, it *is* possible to (temporarily) enjoy both material wealth *and* our work... Why is that (18-20)?

Implications

7. If you were to plan your life around the reality of death, when we lose all our wealth and power, how would you aim to live a good life?

8. What part does God have to play in us enjoying *the good life*?

Read Matthew 6:19-21

9. How does Jesus' advice about "storing up wealth" give us hope, despite all we stand to lose of our wealth in death?

Read Matthew 11:2-11

10. How do Jesus' words about 'greatness' and 'the Kingdom of Heaven' show us a picture of meaning and significance which won't be lost to death?

Prayer & Reflection

Consider just how radically the Gospel of Jesus' Kingdom transforms our perspective on 'stuff' and our own significance. The warnings of Ecclesiastes 5 are good warnings, for people who live for this world alone. But for those who live for the Kingdom, well, thank God for the hope of something that lasts.