

Occupied With Joy

#6 The Quest

Ecclesiastes 5:8-6:9

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Reflection questions:

Monday: Read the entire passage, Eccl 5:8–6:9. Familiarize yourself with the chiasmic (X-shaped) structure of the passage by finding the similarities between the following pairs: 5:8–12 and 6:7–9; 5:13–17 and 6:3–6; and 5:18–19 and 6:1–2.

Tuesday: Read Eccl 5:8–12 and 6:7–9. What is the overarching theme of these verses? What is the one commonality that all of these teachings share?

Wednesday: Read Psalm 73:24–26. How does Asaph’s revelation in these verses of his psalm provide a solution to the problem of insatiable greed in Tuesday’s reading?

Thursday: Read Eccl 5:13–17 and 6:3–6. What two examples does the Preacher provide of someone who fails to enjoy what God has provided? Why does he describe this as a grievous evil and worse than never being born?

Friday: Read Eccl 5:18–6:2. What is the one primary difference between the person in 5:18–19 and the person in 6:1–2? How does 5:20, the central verse of the chiasmic structure, help us to unlock the point of the passage? Ask God to supply His power to enjoy whatever He has given you as a way to demonstrate your ultimate satisfaction in Him as the Giver.

Saturday: Read Hebrews 12:1–2. How does Jesus’ example of enduring suffering on the cross “for the joy set before him” inform our pursuit of satisfaction with whatever lot God has given us in life? What are the areas of your life where you are struggling with joy? As you search your heart, what are you making an ultimate treasure in the place of God? Submit those areas to God and ask for Him to empower your joy.