



Candle Smoke and Cotton Candy

ECCLESIASTES 1:1-18, 3:11-13; JOHN 10:10

I. Solomon observes that this cold, uncaring world traps us in its _____ cycles, so ultimately we make no difference at all.

A. The Creation is an impersonal spectator, watching man be pulverized into nothingness. (vv. 4-5)

B. The cycles of time and climate are like a treadmill, reminding man that he can't keep up. (vv. 6-7)

II. The king notes that life itself is simply a repetition of pointless, _____ patterns between the bookends of birth and death.

A. We are frustrated to learn that the more things change, the more they stay the same. (vv. 8-9)

B. Even posterity will not benefit us or bring ultimate meaning to life. (vv. 10-11)

III. The preacher understands that man can view knowledge and wisdom as his saviors, but in the end they too are _____.

A. There is so much to know, but much study only becomes burdensome. (vv. 13-14)

B. Learning allows man to identify the problem but never fix it, so his pain is increased. (vv. 15-18)

SAD FACTS

You cannot sustain a niche in this world or plant a permanent flag.

You cannot permanently satisfy even one of your appetites.

You cannot stop change or the aging process.

You cannot fill the void within that yearns for meaning in life.

The Substance of Real Satisfaction

As _____, infinite creatures we cannot find ultimate satisfaction using finite stuff. (3:11-13)

This is God's gift to you ...

Do good and sacrifice to meet the needs of others.

Smell the roses now and enjoy every moment.

Take satisfaction in your work each day.

Give thanks to the One who has given you these opportunities.

We cannot find happiness and fulfillment without being connected to our _____.

The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. Ecclesiastes 12:13

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." JOHN 10:10



HOME GROUP DISCUSSION

1. What's your level of satisfaction with life right now? (Record your thoughts and set aside this lesson for later, because at the end of the series you'll refer back to them.) How do you determine what satisfaction is?

2. Which of the "Sad Facts" listed under point III. B. of the sermon notes are painfully true for you lately? What other sad facts would you add to the list?

Finding Satisfaction in Him

"Man hungers for material food but he also has a hunger for something far greater. This is why Jesus said, 'Man shall not live by bread alone'. Greater than the hunger for food in man is the hunger for God which manifests itself basically in the hunger for security, for love, peace, joy, meaning, and life. All these hungers find their complete and permanent satisfaction in Christ."

-Anthony M. Coniaris

"The first step into fullness is a sense of emptiness, a sense of dissatisfaction with all that I am, a sense of disgust with all that I ever hope to be, a sense of utter frustration, a sense that if anything is going to happen, then God must do it. I must come to Him with a broken heart and hear Him say to me, 'A humble and a contrite heart I will not despise.' Before God makes you, He breaks you."

-Alan Redpath

"When I was on my feet, big boisterous pleasures provided only fleeting satisfaction. In a wheelchair, satisfaction settles in as I sit under an oak tree on a windy day and delight in the rustle of the leaves or sit by a fire and enjoy the soothing strains of a symphony. These smaller, less noisy pleasures are rich because, unlike the fun on my feet, these things yield patience, endurance, and a spirit of gratitude, all of which fits me further for eternity. It is this yieldedness that gains you the most here on earth."

-Joni Eareckson Tada

"When Christ reveals Himself there is satisfaction in the slenderest portion, and without Christ there is emptiness in the greatest fullness."

-Alexander Grosse

6. What are you using right now to fill a spiritual need in your life that only God can fill? Watch yourself over the next week to see what you do or think that is an attempt to use finite stuff to fill an infinite hole, then report back to your group at the next meeting what you learned.

3. Read Ecclesiastes chapter 1. What came to mind when the pastor used words like *wearisome*, *pointless* and *monotonous* in regard to Solomon's observations? How has your own experience reinforced the truth of these words? What struggles that have been easy to ignore in life's busyness are now in the forefront of your mind after reading this passage?

4. List some ways you've attempted to fill an eternal need with finite stuff. What did those attempts accomplish? What did you learn from the experiences? Did it change the way you live, if at all?

5. What has the Lord been teaching you lately that curiously seems to coincide with the subject matter in this sermon?

COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Here's a glimpse at what you need to know for this week. Like to plan ahead a little more? Pick up a copy of "The Source" at a stand around campus or near the exits, or visit www.ccbcfamily.org/events. They're your source for everything going on at Christ Chapel.

TA ETHNE MISSIONS LUNCHEON IS TODAY AT 12:30 P.M. Come for lunch in the Oak Room and meet a family who lives and serves in the Middle East. You'll hear how God is at work in their region and what adventures He's leading them on to minister to Muslims in a new country.

MIDDLE SCHOOLERS, REGISTRATION FOR CAMP LONE TREE OPENS TODAY AT 3 P.M. This July 3-8 we're heading to Camp Lone Tree in Capitan, NM and we want you to come with us! You'll dig into God's Word, get to know other middle schoolers and try out some big-time high adventures. The cost is \$450 per person. Register at www.ccbcfamily.org/events.

MEN, COME TO "CULTURE CLASH" THIS THURSDAY, APRIL 27. Join Daniel Rangel, our special guest from Ravi Zacharias Ministries, as he leads a discussion on the major cultural war that's currently raging across America. You'll leave with practical advice for what you can do about it. We'll meet at 6:30 p.m. in The Den—RSVP for dinner at www.ccbcfamily.org/events.

JOIN US FOR NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER. On Thursday, May 4, you're invited to come pray for our country, its leaders and our community any time from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary. From noon to 1 p.m. we'll also have a special hour of worship and corporate prayer led by Senior Pastor Ted Kitchens in the Sanctuary. Limited Next Generation Kids Care will be available from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for children through age 11. RSVP for them at www.ccbcfamily.org/KidsRSVP.

LADIES, REGISTER FOR THE PRAYER RETREAT. If you're looking for a peace and quiet, or time alone with God, come with us to Glen Rose, TX this May 5-6. The retreat includes short messages on prayer, worship and time to fellowship with friends. Plus, you'll have extended times to pray and pour out your heart to God. Learn more and register at www.ccbcfamily.org/events.

AUDITION FOR "CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG!" Everyone's favorite flying car is headed to Christ Chapel this August in a production of the Broadway musical, "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang." We're in search of singers, actors, dancers and a fleet of volunteers to help put on the show. Anyone 10 years or older who is a member or regular attender of CCBC is eligible to audition. Sign up today at www.ccbcfamily.org/musical. Auditions will be held May 7-9.

IMPORTANT PARKING NOTE: Please help us love our neighbors who live in the homes surrounding Christ Chapel by not parking on the streets near the campus. Remember that if our parking lots are full, the remote lot behind the Montgomery Antique Mall has a quick and easy shuttle service with constant round trips to our front door—plus it'll save you time and ease the Sunday morning stress!

Close in prayer. Ask the Lord to reveal to you areas where you look for satisfaction other than in Him, and watch for His response.