

## DAILY BIBLE STUDY SHEET

As the people of God, we should be committed to reading Scripture every day. Here are daily readings and questions to help prompt your meditation. If you do not have a Bible, please contact the church office and we would be honored to provide one. To locate the passages, use the Table of Contents to find the page number of the book. The number before the colon will tell you the chapter to find. The numbers after the colon are the superscript numbers in your Bible indicating the verses to read.

### **Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> – Ecclesiastes 4:7-16**

We resume our Journey through the Bible series, as we finish up Ecclesiastes. For some review and history, recall or watch yesterday's message on Facebook. We start off with what is the best number in life relationships. As we begin, what is the sad truth that Solomon had witnessed (vss. 7-8)? Many of us know folks this way, working all the time to have more, more, more and in the end, there is no one to enjoy the achieved wealth. What's the point? As we continue with Solomon's observations on relationships, what does he recommend going forward (vs. 9)? Why is this an advantage (vss. 10-12a)? But wait, what is even better (vs. 12b)? This is a great example of marriage. Who would be the three involved in a marital relationship? How does the third entity strengthen the relationship? Who do you think is the third entity? We move from relationships to political realities. According to Solomon what is better (vs. 13)? Why is it better (vs 14)? Yet even that is not perfect, because what usually happens (vss. 15-16)? Consider the politics of our day. Has anything changed from Solomon's time? Why do you think Solomon calls this meaningless and like chasing wind? What does this reveal to you about God? What does it reveal about humanity, including yourself? How does this point to Jesus?

### **Tuesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> – Ecclesiastes 5:1-7**

Today we move to Solomon's observations of the Temple. What is Solomon's first piece of advice (vs. 1)? What is Solomon's reason for saying this (vs. 2)? Consider how you entered the house of God Sunday. Did you follow Solomon's advice? He has even more observations here. What does Solomon refer to in verse 3? How can activity be as bad as a chatter mouth? What advice does Solomon offer those who still insist on making vows to God (vs. 4)? But what would be better for you to do (vs. 5)? What is the rationale for saying nothing (vs. 6)? According to Solomon, what would make God angry? Solomon wraps it up with his final words of advice. What is it (vs. 7)? Consider how this applies to you. When have you made promises to God and didn't live up to them? What does this reveal to you about God? What does it reveal about you? How does it point to Jesus (Matthew 5:33-37)?

### **Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup> – Ecclesiastes 5:8 – 6:12**

We have looked at relationships and practices before God. Now we will turn to wealth. This was something that Solomon knew much about as there had never been a king with wealth like Solomon had acquired. What is the first problem with excess wealth (vss. 8-9)? We see that today in corporate and political greed. Solomon is right, some things never change. What is the problem with those who love money (vs. 10a)? What is the misunderstanding about money that the wealthy have about their wealth (vss. 10b-11)? What comes next are a couple of examples of how wealth affects people and slips through our fingers. What examples does Solomon give (vss. 12-15)? But this situation is not just in life. It has implications elsewhere. What is this other implication of wealth that seems distorted (vss. 16-17)? So far, very depressing! But Solomon has some advice on how to live life, with or without wealth (vss. 18-20). How are you living your life? As we move into Chapter 6, we continue with Solomon's observation of wealth and its effect on people. What is the great tragedy that Solomon sees (6:1-2)? Building on this example, Solomon moves onto another one. What is the next example and what is its point (vss. 3-6)? Contentment is a good thing according to Solomon. Are you content? Consider Solomon's further example in verses 7-9. What is meaningless and like chasing wind to Solomon? When have you fallen into this trap? Let's finish up by reading verses 10-12. While sounding very depressing, what is Solomon's point? Consider those in your family who died over 100 years ago. Many of us do not even know their names. So, Solomon is right on point. How does Jesus undo Solomon's point? While our lives lived here on earth are short, we know that this is not all there is. What does this reveal to you about God? Where have you found yourself in Solomon's words today? How does this point to Jesus? How does that produce hope in you?

### **Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup> – Ecclesiastes 7:1-14**

Today's text reads more like Proverbs than Ecclesiastes. Verses 1-4 deal with death and facing the reality of death. What statement starts us off (vs. 1a)? Reputation matters. That is the last Solomon will mention of that. But starting in 1b through 4 we see Solomon talking about death and funerals. What nuggets of wisdom does Solomon share? Do you agree? Moving to verses 5-12 are statements regarding wisdom and fools. Why is praise by a fool not better (vs. 6)? What things can make you foolish (vss. 7-10)? What is the best combo with wisdom (vs. 11)? But in the end what is best to have (vs. 12)? Next comes some sage wisdom from Solomon. What wisdom does he impart (vss. 13-14)? How do these last verses tie into what we know about Job? What do these proverbs reveal to you about God? About yourself? How do these point to and reveal Jesus? Consider verses 13-14 when considering Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.

### **Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup> – Ecclesiastes 7:15 – 8:1**

We close today with Solomon's review of human wisdom. Keep in mind, wisdom was what Solomon asked God for and what God gave Solomon. Now that he is coming to the end of his life, what has Solomon learned or discovered thus far (vss. 15-18)? Verses 19-20 are some observations Solomon has made. Notice that no matter how wise we are, we are all still sinners. Now read verse 21. This reads as though Solomon had some experience in this one. Next comes Solomon's evaluation of wisdom. Read verses 23-25. What was Solomon pursuing and determined to find? What did he discover (vs. 26)? Consider that by this time in life, Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines, who were the weakness in Solomon's faith and his lack of obedience to God. He was caught in the snare. We now return to the results of Solomon's determined pursuit. What did he learn (vss. 27-29)? Why are no women virtuous? Would God agree? Or does Solomon blame women for his weakness? But Solomon doesn't speak well of most men either, does he (vs. 29)? Yet Solomon doesn't reject wisdom. In fact, what does he conclude about wisdom (vs. 8:1)? What do these verses reveal to you about God? What do they reveal about us as humanity? How do these point to Jesus? Consider Jesus' virtues. Was Jesus virtuous? Was Jesus wise?

### **Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> – Prepare for tomorrow by reading Ecclesiastes 12:8-14.**