



**Series:** Living Life Backward

**Sermon:** Part 2: Does God Really Matter?

**Date:** Sunday, May 14th, 2023

People who consider themselves to be followers of Jesus are not \_\_\_\_\_ from the striving and the straining in order to get the same kind of gains as everyone else.

*I said in my heart, "Come now, I will test you with pleasure; enjoy yourself." But behold, this also was vanity. I said of laughter, "It is mad," and of pleasure, "What use is it?" I searched with my heart how to cheer my body with wine... I made great works. I built houses and planted vineyards for myself. I made myself gardens and parks, and planted in them all kinds of fruit trees. I made myself pools from which to water the forest of growing trees. I bought male and female slaves, and had slaves who were born in my house. I had also great possessions of herds and flocks, more than any who had been before me in Jerusalem. I also gathered for myself silver and gold and the treasure of kings and provinces. I got singers, both men and women, and many concubines, the delight of the sons of man. So I became great and surpassed all who were before me in Jerusalem. Also my wisdom remained with me. And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil. Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun. (Ecclesiastes 2:1-11)*

He was using such things for meaning instead of the God Who \_\_\_\_\_ meaning.

Vanity: In this Hebrew context, vanity means a breath or a vapor; ultimately meaningless

**Scripture:** *Ecclesiastes 2:16-19*

In living for ourselves we are actually living for the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Scripture:** *Ecclesiastes 2:24-26*

Without God in the center of our life, we will always be \_\_\_\_\_ for the next thing to satisfy us so we can be happy.



*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under Heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace. What gain has the worker from his toil? He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, He has put eternity into man's heart.... (Ecclesiastes 3:1-9, 11)*

No one can be completely \_\_\_\_\_ with Earthly pleasures and pursuits.

**Scripture:** *Ecclesiastes 3:14-17*

Without God, our life is meaningless and we just die, but if God is central in our life, then life has meaning and everything that happens has greater purpose for us and those around us.

**Bottom Line:** *Whatever season you find yourself in, if God is included then there is purpose, meaning, and even beauty. But when He is not, then all that results is frustration, hopelessness, and despair.*

**Questions to reflect on this week or with others:**

1. What do the things in your life reveal about what you think will make you happy?
2. Why is it that without God we will never truly be satisfied?
3. What things do you seek to control?
4. How can knowing that there will be various seasons in your life help you to embrace what God is trying to do in the current season you are in?
5. Do you believe that God can make everything beautiful in its time?

*Songs used in service: Battle Belongs (Phil Wickham), Tumbas A Jardines (Elevation Worship & Brandon Lake), Jireh (Maverick City Music & Elevation Worship), God So Loved (We The Kingdom)*

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**Any prayer requests?**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email (so we can follow up):** \_\_\_\_\_

**What can we be praying for you about?**