



GETTING THE MOST OUT OF THE MIST
WORKING WELL IN A WILD WORLD
ECCLESIASTES 3:16-4:6

Ben Blakey - Compass Bible Church - January 29 & 30, 2022

1. Mourn _____
(3:16, 4:1-4)

Ecclesiastes 3:16-4:6 (ESV)
16 Moreover, I saw under the sun that in the place of justice, even there was wickedness, and in the place of righteousness, even there was wickedness. 17 I said in my heart, God will judge the righteous and the wicked, for there is a time for every matter and for every work. 18 I said in my heart with regard to the children of man that God is testing them that they may see that they themselves are but beasts. 19 For what happens to the children of man and what happens to the beasts is the same; as one dies, so dies the other.

2. Trust _____
(3:17-22)

They all have the same breath, and man has no advantage over the beasts, for all is vanity. 20 All go to one place. All are from the dust, and to dust all return. 21 Who knows whether the spirit of man goes upward and the spirit of the beast goes down into the earth? 22 So I saw that there is nothing better than that a man should rejoice in his work, for that is his lot. Who can bring him to see what will be after him? 4:1 Again I saw all the oppressions that are done under the sun. And behold, the tears of the oppressed, and they had no one to comfort them!

3. Find _____
(4:5-6)

On the side of their oppressors there was power, and there was no one to comfort them. 2 And I thought the dead who are already dead more fortunate than the living who are still alive. 3 But better than both is he who has not yet been and has not seen the evil deeds that are done under the sun. 4 Then I saw that all toil and all skill in work come from a man's envy of his neighbor. This also is vanity and a striving after wind. 5 The fool folds his hands and eats his own flesh. 6 Better is a handful of quietness than two hands full of toil and a striving after wind.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. **Read Psalm 73:1-15.** Have you ever felt like the Psalmist here? What are some of the inappropriate or unhelpful ways you may respond to the injustice, oppression, and greed in the world?

2. **Read Psalm 73:16-22.** What are some of the limits of human justice? Why is it comforting to know that God will eventually bring perfect justice?

3. **Read Psalm 73:23-28.** What are some specific parts of the Psalmist's conclusion that are particularly helpful to you? Choose to meditate on these things this week!

4. **Read Ecclesiastes 3:22.** Be honest – what are some of the things that make it hard for you to be content with the work God has put in front of you? What from these past few weeks in Ecclesiastes can help you think differently about that? How can you view your lot in life as “gift, not gain”?

5. **Read Ecclesiastes 4:4-6.** Both greed on the one hand and laziness on the other are enemies of a truly godly perspective about work? How might these things tempt you this week, and how will you counter these temptations with God's Word?

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Here are some books which may help you dig deeper into what we studied today. While Pastor Ben cannot endorse everything about each book/author, he does think these books are worth considering and reading.

Gibson, David. *Living Life Backward*. Crossway, 2017.

Wiersbe, Warren. *Be Satisfied*. Victor Books, 1990.

Wilson, Douglas. *Joy at the End of the Tether*. Canon Press, 1999.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayerfully cry out to God regarding the injustice, oppression, and greed in the world.

Pray that our attitudes regarding our work would be a witness to those around us.

Pray for help in trusting God's perfect justice and timing.

Pray that God would provide a new full-time leader in the Plants & Pillars ministry.

Pray that God will provide a long-term home for CBCTV through the Taking Ground project.

REVIVAL FROM THE BIBLE READING

Date	Old Testament	New Testament
1/24	Genesis 36-38	Matthew 6:1-18
1/25	Genesis 39-41	Matthew 6:19-7:6, Luke 6:37-42
1/26	Genesis 42-44	Matthew 7:7-29, Luke 6:43-49
1/27	Genesis 45-47	Matthew 8:1, 5-13; Luke 7:1-17
1/28	Genesis 48-50	Matthew 11:2-19, Luke 7:18-35
1/29	Exodus 1-4	Matthew 11:20-30, Luke 7:36-50