

SERMON SERIES: Madness
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Key Line

When I continually pursue God, lasting pleasure and happiness will find me.

Introduction

This series focuses on the life of Solomon, the wealthiest, wisest, most privileged king of Israel. We are going through the book of Ecclesiastes, which is a reflection of his life. Solomon was gifted wisdom by God, yet the older he got, the more he spiraled out of control, even though he had everything the world could offer.

- Have you seen anyone self-destruct in life or areas of their life? Maybe in the news or someone you know. Do you think they wanted that? Do you think they were seeking pleasure and it led to self-destruction?
- If comfortable, share a time where you have self-destructed due to pleasure?

Seek the Word

Read Ecclesiastes 2:1-11. What pleasures did Solomon pursue? How did he describe these pleasures in the end? (The Hebrew word for meaningless is a vapor that disappears and Solomon meant that what he pursued was meaningless.) Look at verse 9. Solomon KNEW better, but didn't DO better. Do you find yourself in that situation?

Read 1 King 11:1-6. What did Solomon do that was evil in the eyes of the Lord? What did his wives lead Solomon to do? Women were always there for Solomon, and always available for his pleasure. What is always there and always available for your pleasure?

Read Hebrews 11: 24-26 regarding Moses. Moses had everything yet chose mistreatment. Why? How long does the pleasure of sin last for? What do you think about this statement: **Want to ruin your life? Let pleasure drive you in your decisions.**

Talk About It

Here are two sayings that can indicate that pleasure is driving you:

1. You say/think "If only....."
2. You say/think "When _____ happens, then I will have a better life."

Do you find yourself saying or thinking the above? Do you believe that if you achieve or get whatever you pleasure, then that will make you happy? According to Solomon, pleasure didn't fulfill him.

Where is our hope? Read Philippians 4:11-13. What should you pursue to be fulfilled? Would you memorize Philippians 4:13 this week?