

Children's Ministry

THIRD
FOURTH

September 20th || Ecclesiastes 2:17-26

Main Point: You can't take things with you when you die. (futility of possessions)

Read Ecclesiastes 2:17-26 and ask:

1. What is the Preacher's attitude toward his work and the stuff he has gained?
2. Why isn't the Preacher thrilled to give his things to someone after he dies?
3. What is the advantage of wisdom?
4. Does the Preacher consider it wise to simply enjoy the things you have? (Look closely: verse 26 calls it vanity.)

Read Luke 12:16-21 and ask:

1. What did the rich man do when he had more crops than barns?
2. What was his solution?
3. Why didn't the man get to enjoy his crop?
4. How should we respond toward God?

Jesus' parable perfectly reflects the teaching of

the Preacher. In this parable, the rich man responds to having extra things by simply deciding to enjoy them. He's going to build bigger barns and sit back and enjoy his wealth. However, the man has not considered that his stuff is of no value when he dies. Instead, God says we should view the things we have in terms of eternity.

In Matthew 6:19-21, Jesus says: *"¹⁹Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; ²¹for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."* We all enjoy things. Ask the kids to name some of their favorite toys. What can happen to these things? (Get old, break, someone could steal it.) Help show the kids that no matter what, things get old and destroyed. And even if something doesn't break, you have to be concerned if someone will steal it from you. (Show the kids the rusty nails compared to the nice ones).

God is gracious and gives to us good things, and gives us the opportunity to use those things for an eternal benefit...and eternal reward!

- Ask the kids:
1. What am I tempted to love more than Jesus?
 2. How could I use that item for God's glory?

Driving it home...



³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (1 Peter 1:3-5)

Unlike possessions on earth, God's inheritance to us, through the work of Jesus Christ, can never fade, be destroyed or taken away. God is protecting over our rewards we receive in heaven one day, insured to the day we receive it by Jesus' work on the cross and resurrection for us!