



# mist.

## **Week 3 | Mist | January 24**

**Key Focus:** Money can't buy you happiness.

### **Opening Up:**

Name one simple pleasure of your daily, weekly, or monthly rhythm that you look forward to. Describe the pleasure it gives you.

In the last year, when have you been the most relaxed. Describe it.

Do you find it difficult to enjoy life and relax? Explain.

### **Reference: Ecclesiastes 5**

#### **Discuss:**

1. In 5:1-3 we discovered that words, when they are many, are a sign of foolishness. How have you experienced this to be true?
2. Why is it important to let our words match our actions? What are the consequences of making promises that we cannot keep? How does speaking in few words prevent us from making foolish promises?
3. In Matthew 21:28-32 you have a story of two sons. One son acts on the Father's will and the other son just uses words. God has a bias toward action. How does faith-filled action illustrate our respect for God and his desires for us? How does the act of worship help us to respect God more?
4. If life presents us with a series of "carrots on a stick," that is, life goals that promise us significance and meaning; then, what has been a "carrot" in life that you have vainly pursued? How do our eyes sometimes keep us from hearing the voice of God?
5. In 5:8 we see that hierarchical systems can lead to the oppression of the people at the bottom. The preacher says that we should not be amazed by this. How have you seen systems in our world lead to the oppression of the poor?
6. In light of what Jesus says about his Kingdom being a kingdom of servants (Matthew 20:25, 26), how is God's Kingdom different from the kingdoms of the world?
7. In Ecclesiastes 5:9 we see that there is gain and that it is good to build in social structures that protect the poor (see also Leviticus 23:22). How can Christians in society embrace our calling to serve the poor and protect ourselves from our greedy tendencies?
8. Maybe you have had a case of "Affluenza." This is what one author calls "an unhealthy relationship with money." What have been the symptoms of Affluenza for you?
9. Think about this statement, "the primary regulator of your behavior and your affections is your master." How might this be true? How might this be true about your relationship to money?
10. Let's embrace 1 Timothy 6:7 and set our hopes on God and not on the uncertainty of riches. Look at 2 Corinthians 8:9 and ask, "How rich are we as Christians?" You might also ask, "How is our richness in Christ greater than all of the wealth the world has to offer?" Why is this hard to believe?
11. Pray.