

LIFE... Been There, Done That

Ecclesiastes 2:1-26

Introduction

Carpe Diem

I. The Case for _____ (2:1-11)

Summary: It's _____ and _____
(I John 2:15-17)

II. The Case for _____ (2:12-17)

Summary: We all share _____

III. The Case for _____ (2:18-23)

Summary: It leaves you _____

IV. The Case for _____ (2:24-26)

Summary: Enjoy the _____

Conclusion

Today's Apple... Take a Big Bite!

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Ecclesiastes 2:1-26

Introduction

Carpe Diem

1. I tried experiences vs. 1-3

2. I tried projects vs. 4-6

3. I tried pleasure vs. 7-10

4. But.... vs. 11-23

Conclusion vs. 24-26

Today's Apple... Take a Big Bite!!

The Emmaus Road

...and he opened to us the Scriptures (Luke 24:32)

In the movie *Dead Poet's Society*, Professor John Keating (played by Robin Williams) has his students gazing into a photo display of former students. These former students have long since died and Keating's point was to challenge them to live extraordinary lives while they can. That is precisely what Solomon wants for us. He is taking all the guesswork out and establishing God as our focus. Let's go back to Ecclesiastes 2 and re-visit Solomon's experiment as he seeks to find the "advantage" or the meaning of life.

Monday - Read Ecclesiastes 2:1-3. What does Solomon mean when he says, "I will test you with pleasure"? What is Solomon hoping to discover? What does he figure out in his pursuit of pleasure? Why do you think so many people never figure out what Solomon discovered in this pursuit of pleasure? What is the Lord revealing to you about things you may be pursuing?

Tuesday - Read Ecclesiastes 2:4-8. Now what is Solomon up to? Since the pleasure of a "good time" didn't satisfy him, what is he now looking to? What do these verses say about the resources Solomon had at his disposal? What is Solomon trying to do in verse 8? How can you compare what Solomon is doing in this passage with the world in which we live? What does this passage have to say about your pursuit of satisfaction?

Wednesday - Read Ecclesiastes 2:9-11. What does this passage say about the extent to which Solomon went to satisfy himself? What conclusion does Solomon draw in his pursuit to bring pleasure to himself? He discovers there is no advantage to any earthly pursuit that man experiences. What an incredible discovery! Now read I John 2:15-17. In light of Solomon's journey, how is your view of this passage different? Ask the Lord to open this passage up to you in new ways.

Thursday - Read Ecclesiastes 2:13-23. What is Solomon saying in this passage about life, death and the accumulation of resources? What was your first reaction when you read this passage? What does Solomon want you to understand? What does verse 23 say to you about life lived apart from God? Why do you think Solomon is going to such extreme lengths to make his point?

Friday - Read Ecclesiastes 2:24-26. In this experiential laboratory, what conclusion does Solomon draw about the true essence of life? What do you think he means when he says, "eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil"? What does Solomon want you to do RIGHT NOW with this information? God wants us to know something profoundly simple; that life lived in God is designed to be satisfying in the moment. May you treasure today for all that He wants it to be and never live apart from Him! Go ahead, take a big bite of that apple!