



Seeking After 'Gain'

- » Once again this seeking after 'gain' is seen as futile – passing, breath
- » Not of enduring significance
- » Wealth/inheritance just passes on to someone else, perhaps a fool (2:18-19)
- » As a result 'sleepless nights' (2:23)

A Word of Contrast: Hope & Meaning

Ecclesiastes 2:24-26

Life Under the Hand of God

- » Not simply 'under the sun' but now an open circuit – under the 'hand of God' (2:24)
- » The focus is on a new word – 'good' (Tob) – translated 'better' or 'find enjoyment'

Contentment Over Gain

- » A focus on contentment rather than gain
- » Synchronize with God's purposes – note the introduction of God in the system 3x
- » Be content in the little things – food/drink/work (v24)

- » The created order is good (as Psalm 104:14)
- » Such a perspective leads to joy (v26)

Contentment Over Gloom, Despair, Scepticism

- » Trust in the giver not the gift
- » Not seeking autonomy

'Gathering & Heaping'

- » Living under the 'hand of God' is given a moral sense – this perspective pleases God (v26)
- » Rejecting God/refusing him ultimately leads to one's demise – it is simply the treadmill of gathering & heaping (v26b)



Live Openly

- » Here is an exhortation to open up one's life to God
- » Live open to his movement in your life – live 'under his hand'

Life as Gift

- » Receive life as a gift from God's hand and live in contentment
- » Not constant searching for gain
- » Contentment in life's simple pleasures

Open Hands

- » Release our drivenness (closed fists) and accept God's peace (open hands)
- » Not restless activity

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Matthew 13:44

A person is walking away from the camera on a stone path. A white cloth is laid out on the ground in front of them, and they appear to be stepping on it. The background is blurred, suggesting an outdoor setting.

Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger
and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

Matthew 5:5-6