

Beyond The Sermon

A Sermon Application Guide

Title: Driven by Eternity

This guide is designed to offer a simple tool for those wanting to take the next step with Sunday's message. You can print this guide to study on your own, or use it in a group and experience transformation together.

Message Theme & Prayer Focus

Heart for the Kingdom - Driven by Eternity

"Father God, I recognize your goodness, faithfulness, and overwhelming love for me. Help me to recognize, even in the tough moments, that you want what's best for me. Thank you for blessing me with your eternal life today so that I can walk in all that you have for me, living life in your abundance. Soften my heart to receive the truth in this message and give me eyes to see how you're laying out the path for me to follow, in Jesus' name. Amen!"

Key Concepts/Truths

Solomon, the wisest man in history, went after pleasure and had everything that he could ever want from wives to money and life accomplishments, but he ultimately called it meaningless. He realized looking for satisfaction in things of the world like money, relationships, sex, drugs, careers, simply would not fulfill his life.

Solomon's Words of Wisdom (from Ecclesiastes)

- Whoever loves money never has enough, and the more that we have the more we want.
- The more you have, the harder others will try to come after it.
- The more you have, the more you have to worry about.
- The more you have, the more you have to lose or leave behind.
- The more you have, the more you can hurt yourself and others by holding onto it.

The deceitfulness of riches tells us that in order to be happy we just need more, but our life does not consist in the abundance of the things that we possess. A life devoted to “things” is a dead life, while a life submitted to God is like a flourishing tree.

God meets all of our needs, and will take care of us out of His abundance in exactly the way that we need, even when things seem dark. When we're in the will of God, we will have peace.

Taking something temporary, like money, and sowing it into the Kingdom of God makes it eternal. We can accomplish so much for the Kingdom as a result of using the money that He blesses us with.

Every time we give, we receive. It might not come back in the way we think it will, but God gives back to us. Giving isn't always convenient, but it's a sacrifice of obedience and it is well pleasing to God.

Every time a blessing comes into our hands, some of it is for us and some of it is for others. When we give something, it leaves our hands, but it never leaves our lives because it allows God room to bless us even greater in things even bigger than our finances.

Key Verses:

1 Kings 3:4-5 • 1 Kings 10-13 • Ecclesiastes 2:1-14 • Ecclesiastes 5:13-16 • Ecclesiastes 11:1 • Proverbs 3:9-10 • Proverbs 11:24 • Matthew 6:19-20 • Philippians 4:15-19

Daily Applications

Earthly things and desires make for terrible foundations in life. When our trust is placed in anything other than God, we quickly find out how unstable of a foundation those things really are. But how do we wake ourselves up to see it, and how do we reverse it when we sense it happening in our lives?

We overcome evil with good. Before we ever have to reverse selfishness and greed, we can begin to give generously of what we have. Before we realize our identity has become wrapped up in the things of this world and our accomplishments, we can seek out who God says we are. Before we ever have to turn around and back track in life, we can start plotting a course in the right direction—Christ. We don't have to wait until we've made mistakes to realize that God has something beautiful planned for us as we walk in his will, especially when it comes to finances and building His Kingdom.

When it comes to giving, a great place to start is to go to the Lord and see what He is putting on our heart for the season we are currently in. Through prayer, we can ask God what it looks like

for us to give obediently. When we give obediently of our time, finances, skills, or whatever God has blessed us with, we break the power that greed and the devil have over the things in our lives. When we break that power, we can live free to fulfill our purpose and be who God created us to be. Through telling our stories, sharing generously, and using our gifts we will touch other people's lives and build the Kingdom.

This Week's Declarations

"I believe that God is the God of exceedingly abundantly more and I put my trust in Him, not in my finances or the things I try to control in my life. I know that He delights in my successes, that I am blessed to be a blessing. I dedicate everything that I receive to the Lord, blessing others as He calls me to. I give all of the glory to God for the things that I have, and I use them to honor Him in everything that I do. I reprioritize my life to the Kingdom and the desires that He places in my heart. Even when giving isn't easy, I live a generous lifestyle impacting others for Christ and building His Kingdom, in Jesus' name."

What's Next?

Now it's time to write down anything that the Lord has spoken to you. Praise Him, Thank Him and ask the Holy Spirit to help you walk this out.

Scripture Reference Driven by Eternity

1 Kings 3:4-5 NKJV

Now the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place: Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask! What shall I give you?"

1 Kings 3:9 GNT

So give me the wisdom I need to rule your people with justice and to know the difference between good and evil. Otherwise, how would I ever be able to rule this great people of yours?"

1 Kings 3:11-13 NKJV

Then God said to him: “Because you have asked this thing, and have not asked long life for yourself, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have asked the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern justice, behold, I have done according to your words; see, I have given you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has not been anyone like you before you, nor shall any like you arise after you. And I have also given you what you have not asked: both riches and honor, so that there shall not be anyone like you among the kings all your days.

1 Kings 10:1-13 NKJV

Now when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the Lord, she came to test him with hard questions. She came to Jerusalem with a very great retinue, with camels that bore spices, very much gold, and precious stones; and when she came to Solomon, she spoke with him about all that was in her heart. So Solomon answered all her questions; there was nothing so difficult for the king that he could not explain *it* to her. And when the queen of Sheba had seen all the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, the food on his table, the seating of his servants, the service of his waiters and their apparel, his cupbearers, and his entryway by which he went up to the house of the Lord, there was no more spirit in her. Then she said to the king: “It was a true report which I heard in my own land about your words and your wisdom. However I did not believe the words until I came and saw with my own eyes; and indeed the half was not told me. Your wisdom and prosperity exceed the fame of which I heard. Happy *are* your men and happy *are* these your servants, who stand continually before you *and* hear your wisdom! Blessed be the Lord your God, who delighted in you, setting you on the throne of Israel! Because the Lord has loved Israel forever, therefore He made you king, to do justice and righteousness.” Then she gave the king one hundred and twenty talents of gold, spices in great quantity, and precious stones. There never again came such abundance of spices as the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon. Also, the ships of Hiram, which brought gold from Ophir, brought great quantities of almug wood and precious stones from Ophir. And the king made [d]steps of the almug wood for the house of the Lord and for the king’s house, also harps and stringed instruments for singers. There never again came such almug wood, nor has the like been seen to this day. Now King Solomon gave the queen of Sheba all she desired, whatever she asked, besides what Solomon had given her according to the royal generosity. So she turned and went to her own country, she and her servants.

1 Kings 11:1-11 NKJV

But King Solomon loved many foreign women, as well as the daughter of Pharaoh: women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, *and* Hittites— from the

nations of whom the Lord had said to the children of Israel, “You shall not intermarry with them, nor they with you. Surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods.” Solomon clung to these in love. And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned away his heart. For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the Lord his God, as was the heart of his father David. For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. Solomon did evil in the sight of the Lord, and did not fully follow the Lord, as *did* his father David. Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, on the hill that *is* east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the abomination of the people of Ammon. And he did likewise for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods. So the Lord became angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned from the Lord God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice, and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; but he did not keep what the Lord had commanded. Therefore the Lord said to Solomon, “Because you have done this, and have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant.

Ecclesiastes 2:1-2 NIV

I said to myself, “Come now, I will test you with pleasure to find out what is good.” But that also proved to be meaningless. “Laughter,” I said, “is madness. And what does pleasure accomplish?”

Ecclesiastes 2:3 NIV

I tried cheering myself with wine, and embracing folly—

Ecclesiastes 2:4-5 NIV

I undertook great projects: I built houses for myself and planted vineyards. I made gardens and parks and planted all kinds of fruit trees in them.

Ecclesiastes 2:6 NIV

I made reservoirs to water groves of flourishing trees.

Ecclesiastes 2:7 NIV

I bought male and female slaves and had other slaves who were born in my house. I also owned more herds and flocks than anyone in Jerusalem before me.

Ecclesiastes 2:8 NIV

I amassed silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces.

Ecclesiastes 2:8 NIV

I acquired male and female singers, and a harem as well—the delights of a man's heart.

Ecclesiastes 2:9 NIV

I became greater by far than anyone in Jerusalem before me. In all this my wisdom stayed with me.

Ecclesiastes 2:10 NIV

denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 NIV

...here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

Proverbs 11:28 MSG

A life devoted to things is a dead life, a stump; a God-shaped life is a flourishing tree.

Luke 12:15 NKJV

... beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."

Ecclesiastes 5:10 NIV

Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless.

Luke 12:15 ESV

And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

Ecclesiastes 5:9 NIV

The increase from the land is taken by all; the king himself profits from the fields.

Ecclesiastes 5:11 NIV

As goods increase, so do those who consume them. And what benefit are they to the owners except to feast their eyes on them?

Ecclesiastes 5:12 NIV

The sleep of a laborer is sweet, whether they eat little or much, but as for the rich, their abundance permits them no sleep.

Matthew 6:25-34 ESV

“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

Matthew 6:11 NIV

Give us today our daily bread.

Ecclesiastes 5:13 NIV

I have seen a grievous evil under the sun: wealth hoarded to the harm of its owners,

Proverbs 11:24 ESV

One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.

Proverbs 11:24 MSG

The world of the generous gets larger and larger; the world of the stingy gets smaller and smaller.

Proverbs 3:9-10 NKJV

Honor the Lord with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.

Ecclesiastes 5:14 NIV

or wealth lost through some misfortune...

Ecclesiastes 5:13-14 NIV

I have seen a grievous evil under the sun...wealth lost through some misfortune...

Matthew 6:19-20 NKJV

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

Matthew 6:24 NKJV

...You cannot serve God and mammon.

Ecclesiastes 5:15-16 NIV

Everyone comes naked from their mother's womb, and as everyone comes, so they depart. They take nothing from their toil that they can carry in their hands. This too is a grievous evil: As everyone comes, so they depart...

Philippians 4:15 NKJV

Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only.

Philippians 4:16-17 NKJV

For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities. Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account.

Philippians 4:18 NKJV

Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God.

Ecclesiastes 11:1 ESV

Cast your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days.