



DIDN'T SEE IT COMING

Part Four: Emptiness

So many people get surprised by something that generation after generation of successful people encounter: success is emptier than they ever dreamed. Even when all your dreams come true, you may feel grateful. But feeling grateful doesn't leave you full? Why does success feel so empty? We'll look at why that is, and what to do about it.

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 1: 2-8, Ecclesiastes 2: 1-11 NLT

Bottom Line: The only thing more terrifying than dying to yourself...is living for yourself.

Discussion Questions

1. If you won the lottery or somehow came into the kind of money, power and influence Solomon did, what do you think you would do with it all? (Be honest...don't say you'd donate it all to charity and go live in a convent just because you're talking to church people...)
2. In Ecclesiastes 1: 2-8, Solomon says that rivers run into the sea, but the sea is never full. No matter how much we see, we are never satisfied. No matter how much we hear, we are never content. To what extent have you seen this principle at work in your life or the life of those around you?
3. According to Ecclesiastes 2: 1-11, how did Solomon try to fill the hole inside him?
4. In the message, Carey described what he calls the 'cycle of accumulation:' more, better, different, despair. To what extent have you experienced that cycle. How has it left you feeling?
5. There's no end to the sad discontent of making you the mission of your life. Discuss.
6. How might working toward a Kingdom that's bigger than you (The Kingdom of God) help solve the emptiness you feel inside?

Moving Forward

The Christian life is about finding new life in Christ, but the life you find in Jesus comes on the other side of dying to yourself. While dying to yourself may seem terrifying, it's a far better alternative than living for yourself. When you find yourself empty, come humbly before God and surrender the Kingdom of Me and once again embrace the Kingdom of God.

Changing Your Mind

"No matter how much we see, we are never satisfied. No matter how much we hear, we are not content." Ecclesiastes 1:8 NLT