

The Simplicity of Wisdom - Empty or Full 2/5/23 Ecclesiastes 1:1-3
Solomon wrote Ecclesiastes. Wisest man – asked for wisdom.
God gave it to him, but he didn't always act wisely.

I. EMPTY **This jar is not empty – full of air!** Nothing is really empty, except a vacuum – like trying to empty your mind. **Vanity** comes from a word-meaning vapor, air, or breath.

A. Preaching vain (**hot air**) without Christ Ecclesiastes 1:2 – Nothing changes no matter what preach. Soul winning – no more out. Marriage – nothing changes. Faithfulness – next week less people. I Corinthians 1:18, 23-25 Some people think church is just a lot of **hot air**. **Preaching = Power**

1. Gospel is vain without Christ I Corinthians 15:14,17, 19 I John 5:12 **He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. Like chocolate without sugar**

2. Is your heart full or empty? I Corinthians 15:1-2 (3-4) **Do you remember a time or a place?**

B. Preaching empty words Ecclesiastes 12:8-14 **I spend time studying, you should spend time preparing to receive it. Seems to just go in and out. Why bother?**

1. None effect Mark 7:6-7, 13 **Tradition = Come to church, sing a few songs. Give our offerings,**

listen to message, say Amen, and go home – no effect!

2. No profit II Timothy 2:14-16 Does it profit you when I drink water? Acts 17:11

a) Do you believe in the power of God?

Malachi 3:13-14

(1) Preached about giving - Believe it?

What are you doing? Acts 20:35 I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

(2) Do you believe that you can do something great for God or that God can do something great for you? Psalm 63:1-2 O God, thou *art* my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; To see thy power and thy glory, so *as* I have seen thee in the sanctuary.

(3) What are you living for?

Ecclesiastes 2:10-11 Look back on

your life – empty. Take the 20 year backward look.

- II. HALF EMPTY OR HALF FULL? Revelation 3:15-16 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. We see ourselves as half-full, God sees us as half-empty. Would you accept from McDonalds what you offer to God?
- I Corinthians 6:19-20 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.
- A. Filled with Fruit of Spirit or works of the flesh
Ephesians 5:18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit. Galatians 5:19,21-25 **Soda & Fruit Juice**
 - B. Depends on what's in the glass – **Prune juice ½ full. Soda ½ empty** Romans 15:13 Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost. **Fill to brim!**
 - C. Depends on where you started from. Philippians 1:6,9-11 **Start with empty glass or full glass** Romans 12:1-2

D. The glass is too large James 4:13-17 Ever notice that McDonalds can fit 20 oz. of soda in a 32 oz. cup. We come to the end of our lives and find all that's left is ice that just melts away. **Jar story.**

E. Not an optimist or a pessimist – realist I Corinthians 10:31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

Whatever life brings you – accept as from the Lord.

Luke 22:42 Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

III. FULL OF WHAT?

A. Have to empty it to fill it God does not pour his good blessings into dirty vessels.

1. Empty of sin II Timothy 2:21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, *and* prepared unto every good work.

a) Quench not the Spirit I Thessalonians 5:19
Quench not the Spirit. **Roach in glass**

b) Grieve not the Spirit Ephesians 4:30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Ephesians 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the

word. “**Sanctify**” = set apart God does not want to share your backwash.

2. Cannot fill a cup that is full I Corinthians 15:10
But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which *was bestowed* upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

B. Fill it to empty it I Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. Use what God has given you & God will give you more.
Keep it fresh!

Ps. 4:2-3 O ye sons of men, how long *will ye turn* my glory into shame? *how long* will ye love vanity, and seek after **leasing**?
Selah. But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself: the LORD will hear when I call unto him. **Are you “leasing” the Christian life or owning it?**

Then he pulled out a one-gallon, wide-mouthed mason jar and set it on a table in front of him. Then he produced about a dozen fist-sized rocks and carefully placed them, one at a time, into the jar.

When the jar was filled to the top and no more rocks would fit inside, he asked, "Is this jar full?" Everyone in the class said, "Yes." Then he said, "Really?" He reached under the table and pulled out a bucket of gravel. Then he dumped some gravel in and shook the jar causing pieces of gravel to work themselves down into the spaces between the big rocks.

Then he smiled and asked the group once more, "Is the jar full?" By this time the class was onto him. "Probably not," one of them answered. "Good!" he replied. And he reached under the table and brought out a bucket of sand. He started dumping the sand in and it went into all the spaces left between the rocks and the gravel. Once more he asked the question, "Is this jar full?"

"No!" the class shouted. Once again he said, "Good!" Then he grabbed a pitcher of water and began to pour it in until the jar was filled to the brim. Then he looked up at the class and asked, "What is the point of this illustration?"

One eager beaver raised his hand and said, "The point is, no matter how full your schedule is, if you try really hard, you can always fit some more things into it!"

"No," the speaker replied, "that's not the point. The truth this illustration teaches us is: If you don't put the big rocks in first, you'll never get them in at all."