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*Ecclesiastes 12:13 Now, all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole [duty] of man. <sup>14</sup> For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.*

**Point #2:**

**God gives meaning in your everyday life as you make Him first thing priority.**

**Conclusion:**

*Mark 8:36 What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?*

## The Redemption of Emptiness

*Isaiah 55:1 "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.*

<sup>2</sup> *Why spend money on what is not bread, and **your labor on what does not satisfy?** Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and **you will delight in the richest of fare.***

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## The Surprising Virtue of Emptiness

### Satisfied-part 2

April 7, 2024

*Proverbs 27:20 Hell and destruction are never satisfied, and never satisfied are the eyes of man.*

Am I giving from trusted fulness or grasping for demanded fulness?
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### The Ecclesiastes-Experience

*Ecclesiastes 1:1 The words of the Teacher, son of David, king in Jerusalem:*

<sup>2</sup> *"Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher. "Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless."*

*Ecclesiastes 2:1 I thought in my heart, "Come now, I will test you with pleasure to find out what is good."*

*Eccl. 2:1 ...But that also proved to be meaningless.*

*Ecclesiastes 2:2 "Laughter," I said, "is foolish. And what does pleasure accomplish?"*

### Pleasure on demand

*Ecclesiastes 2:3 I tried cheering myself with wine, and embracing folly--my mind still guiding me with wisdom. I wanted to see what was worthwhile for men to do under heaven during the few days of their lives.*

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*Ecclesiastes 2:4 I undertook great projects: I built houses for myself and planted vineyards.*

*<sup>5</sup> I made gardens and parks and planted all kinds of fruit trees in them.*

*<sup>6</sup> I made reservoirs to water groves of flourishing trees.*

## **Money, sex and power**

*Ecclesiastes 2:7 I bought male and female slaves and had other slaves who were born in my house....*

*Eccl. 2:7 ...I also owned more herds and flocks than anyone in Jerusalem before me.*

*Ecclesiastes 2:8 I amassed silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces...*

*Eccl. 2:8...I acquired men and women singers, ...*

*Eccl. 2:8 ... and a harem as well--the delights of the heart of man.*

*Mark 8:35 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. <sup>36</sup> What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?*

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## **Emptiness too great for man's greatest efforts**

*Eccl. 2:9 I became greater by far than anyone in Jerusalem before me. In all this my wisdom stayed with me.*

*Eccl. 2:10 I denied myself nothing my eyes desired...*

*Eccl. 2:10 ...I refused my heart no pleasure.*

*Eccl. 2:10 ...My heart took delight in all my work, and this was the reward for all my labor.*

*Eccl 2:11 Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun.*

## **Meaning from God and through God**

*Ecclesiastes 12:1 Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, "I find no pleasure in them"—*

### **Point #1:**

**Man can only find his core meaning in a "first thing" relationship with God.**

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