

MIST AND BUBBLES

Ecclesiastes 2:18-26

The author of Ecclesiastes, who refers to himself as the Teacher, says that our achievements, our pleasure, our laughter, even our happiness, are like the mist. They don't last, and in a moment are blown away. All the places we seek to create meaning – acquiring wisdom, building for the future through our work, storing possessions – are bubbles that burst when we are gone.

☐ **Monday: Read James 4:13-17.**

James reminds us, "You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes." How does this perspective challenge or reshape your view of success and planning?

☐ **Tuesday: Read Ecclesiastes 2:18-19.**

The Teacher grieves that everything he's worked for will be passed on to someone who might be foolish. Have you ever worked hard only to wonder if it mattered?

What emotions arise when your efforts go unrecognized or unused?

What would it look like to offer your work to God instead of tying it to your worth?

☐ **Wednesday: Read Ecclesiastes 2:20-23.**

These verses ask, "What do people get for all the toil?" and speak of sleepless nights.

When has striving worn you out?

What might God be inviting you to release so you can rest?

☐ **Thursday: Read Ecclesiastes 2:24-25.**

The Teacher shifts perspective: Enjoyment is not earned but given.

What simple pleasures or moments have brought you joy recently?

How can you practice gratitude today for what you've already received?

☐ **Friday: Read Ecclesiastes 2:26.**

This verse suggests that wisdom and knowledge are gifts from God given to those who seek to please God in their daily living. What does it mean to "please God" in your everyday life?

How is this different from trying to impress others?

☐ **Saturday: Read Psalm 90:12-17.**

The psalmist prays, "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom."

What does it mean to live wisely, not anxiously, because our days in this life are numbered?

The author has come to realize that the happiness he has sought his whole life comes not from his striving, but from God's giving. Life is a gift to be enjoyed, not a puzzle to be mastered.

We find joy in receiving every moment of life as a gift.