

Riverview Baptist Church
Sunday School Lesson Guide
November 16, 2014
“Chasing the Wind” by Randy Alcorn

Memory Verse:

“Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless.” Ecclesiastes 5:10

On the last page of this lesson is an illustration by an online artist inspired by today’s scripture. Notice how the man’s desire for things starts out small and simple as a child, seemingly harmless. However, as he gets older and more entrenched in a materialistic worldview and lifestyle, he is never happy with what he has, but continues to want more and more until finally, he dies and is carried away, as naked and without possession as the day he was born. Sometimes a picture is worth a thousand words, and this one is a haunting example of what a waste a worldly, selfish life is.

This week’s lesson is written by Randy Alcorn and is published on his website and in his book, *The Treasure Principle*.

Read more: <http://www.epm.org/blog/2012/Sep/28/chasing-wind#ixzz3IxBqw2td>

Chasing the Wind

The book of Ecclesiastes is the most powerful exposé of materialism ever written. Solomon recounts his attempts to find meaning in pleasure, laughter, alcohol, folly, building projects, and the pursuit of personal

interests, as well as in amassing slaves, gold and silver, singers, and a huge harem to fulfill his sexual desires ([Ecclesiastes 2:1-11](#)). The more Solomon had, the more he was tempted to indulge. His indulgence led to sin, and his sin brought misery.

Solomon makes a series of insightful statements in [Ecclesiastes 5:10–15](#). I’ll follow each with my paraphrase:

- “Whoever loves money never has money enough” (v. 10). **The more you have, the more you want.**
- “Whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income” (v. 10). **The more you have, the less you’re satisfied.**
- “As goods increase, so do those who consume them” (v. 11). **The more you have, the more people (including the government) will come after it.**
- “And what benefit are they to the owner except to feast his eyes on them?” (v. 11). **The more you have, the more you realize it does you no good.**
- “The sleep of a laborer is sweet, whether he eats little or much, but the abundance of a rich man permits him no sleep” (v. 12). **The more you have, the more you have to worry about.**
- “I have seen a grievous evil under the sun: wealth hoarded to the harm of its owner” (v. 13). **The more you have, the more you can hurt yourself by holding on to it.**
- “Or wealth lost through some misfortune” (v.14). **The more you have, the more you have to lose.**

- *“Naked a man comes from his mother’s womb, and as he comes, so he departs. He takes nothing from his labor that he can carry in his hand” (v. 15). **The more you have, the more you’ll leave behind.***

As the wealthiest man on earth, Solomon learned that affluence didn’t satisfy. All it did was give him greater opportunity to chase more mirages. People tend to run out of money before mirages, so they cling to the myth that things they can’t afford will satisfy them. Solomon’s money never ran out. He tried everything, saying, “I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure” ([Ecclesiastes 2:10](#)).

Solomon’s conclusion? “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” (v. 11).

Consider this statement, “Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income” ([Ecclesiastes 5:10](#)). The repeated word never is emphatic—there are no exceptions. There’s an unspoken corollary to this statement: To become satisfied, you must change your attitude toward wealth.

Money itself is never the answer. What we need is a radically different perspective on money and a genuine opportunity to do something with it that will make our lives meaningful instead of meaningless.

Take Home:

- *Wealth can’t satisfy you, it can only make you want more and more.*
- *Wealth can’t give you peace and security; in fact, it will cause you greater anxiety.*
- *The only way to escape the trap of materialism is to change our perspective on money to mirror the values, priorities and generosity of God.*

(http://www.sergiocariello.com/etc/etc_gallery/Ecclesiastes1&2.jpg)

Link cited for picture.

ECCLESIASTES

Chapter
5:10-15

HE THAT LOVES MONEY WILL NEVER BE SATISFIED WITH MONEY.

HE THAT LOVES WEALTH WILL NEVER BE SATISFIED WITH HIS INCOME. THIS TOO IS MEANINGLESS.

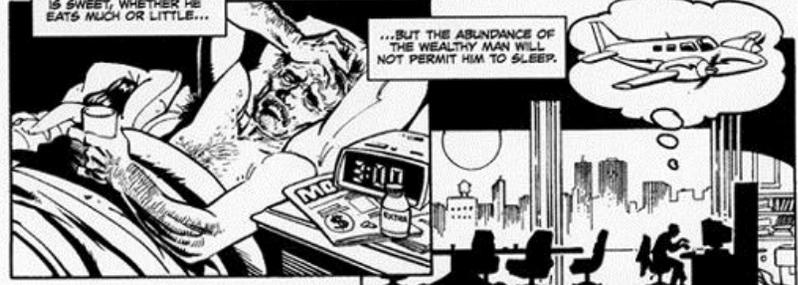


AND WHAT BENEFIT IS THERE IN THE INCREASE OF HIS POSSESSIONS SAVING THE INDULGENCE OF HIS EYES?



THE SLEEP OF A LABORER IS SWEET, WHETHER HE EATS MUCH OR LITTLE...

...BUT THE ABUNDANCE OF THE WEALTHY MAN WILL NOT PERMIT HIM TO SLEEP.



THERE IS A GRIEVOUS EVIL UNDER THE SUN:

WEALTH KEPT TO THE HARM OF ITS OWNER.

THAT WEALTH IS LOST BY MISFORTUNE...

...SO THAT EVEN HIS SON WILL NOT SEE ANY OF IT IN HIS HAND.

5:16

NAKED HE CAME FROM HIS MOTHER'S WOMB.

AND AS HE CAME HE ALSO DEPARTS ...

...AND HE TAKES NOTHING OF HIS LABOR THAT HE CAN CARRY AWAY IN HIS HANDS.