

“I said to myself, “Come on, let’s try pleasure. Let’s look for the ‘good things’ in life.” But I found that this, too, was meaningless.” Ecclesiastes 2:1 NLT

[lectio] // ECCLESIASTES 2:1-17

listen to the text by reading out loud slowly and repeat up to 3x if desired

The search for meaning. And, Solomon had the resources to search every possibility. First starts with pleasure, then wine, building huge homes for myself, planting beautiful vineyards, gardens and parks, filling them with all kinds of fruit trees. He built reservoirs to collect the water to irrigate my many flourishing groves. He bought slaves, both men and women, owned large herds and flocks, collected great sums of silver and gold, hired wonderful singers, both men and women, and had many beautiful concubines. He had everything a man could desire! In the end he found all those “good things” meaningless. This pursuit ends up spiraling the wisest, richest man into a tailspin of hopelessness and desperation. And interestingly, wisdom never left him. Wisdom didn’t say... STOP. Wisdom didn’t find him fulfillment of happiness, it eventually delivered the worst return ever. Both the wise and fool die and no one remembers them. Which is not true.

[oratio]

pray as responding to the words, phrase, sentence that God has stirred within you

Dad,
This passage completely speaks about living life with you, for you and leaving a legacy with what you have given to each person. The pursuit of things or pleasures only leaves emptiness. But a life well lived, a life invested in the Kingdom of God, a life lost in you yields eternal results, dividends of generosity, a legacy of grace and a model to aspire to. What happened to the wealthiest man’s children? What happened to the thousand wives, massive stockpiles of silver and gold, lands and palaces - all conquered, all lost from within. All redistributed to someone else’s pursuit of power. Is this how Solomon intended his life to go?

[contemplatio]

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root