



## EPISODE FIVE

### NEW LIFE

#### Quote:

“Everyone has a plan until you get punched in the mouth.” Mike Tyson.

#### Question:

What impacted you the most from Tim’s talk?

Has anyone had expectations that have not worked out the way that you anticipated? It might have been around your future, hopes, dreams, relationships or plans. Are you prepared to share that? How do we move forward with hope when things don’t work the way that we would like or thought that they would?

#### Host:

We find these hard questions and things around injustice and suffering asked in the book called Ecclesiastes. It is a book that causes us to take a step back and reevaluate what we all think about life.

The author of Ecclesiastes is a sceptical man with whom we can relate. He asks all the hard questions and shrugs off the simplistic and easy answers. The author referred to himself as the Preacher because he has something to say and he wants all of us to listen.

#### Question:

What does the Preacher declare in Ecclesiastes 1:1-3? Is that a question that you have ever asked yourself? Is life meaningless? What does the word mean to you?

#### Host:

The book of Ecclesiastes helps people ask the questions they are afraid to ask. His use of the word vanity has less to do with weight, mirrors and makeup but more to do with the meaning of your life. If the world we are looking at right now is all there is, if all of us are living for the temporary and the transient, then it is all vanity, or in other words, it’s all meaningless, pointless, and absurd.

**Host:**

The Bible shows us that God has a vision for our lives and the Bible also exposes that our vision is often flawed. It shows us that the vision God has is far, far better.

One philosophy professor said Ecclesiastes is the question to which the rest of the Bible is the answer. Ecclesiastes is looking at life through the camera lens of our vision without the flashbulb of our faith. The Preacher is right. If vanity is what we're living for, then we should be living for something better.

**Question:**

Many people question the Bible, but the Bible actually questions us. What do you expect out of life? Where did those expectations come from? And what if those expectations were completely wrong?

**Host:**

We all have a personal script we are living for. If we have these kinds of relationships, or this kind of job or career, or this much money, or lived in this particular town then life will be great and we will have all that we need. Then along comes the Bible and causes us to question that!

**Question:**

Are these the things we were meant to be living for? Are these the things we are to be placing all our hope, faith, and trust in? Is it wrong to have ambition?

**Host:**

Questions like these will lead us to find out what really matters. They set us up to receive what can only come from beyond ourselves. These questions help us to examine our own particular life script in light of these hard truths. Though the Preacher may be ancient and also dead, his wisdom still speaks, encourages us to focus on what can come from beyond ourselves.

**Question:**

Historically it is Christians who ask the hardest questions of all. "What are you living for in this life that can truly last? What are you living for that gives you meaning, fulfillment, peace, contentment, and joy that nothing in this world can take away?" How do we talk with non-Christians about our hopes, dreams ambitions etc. yet at the same time point them to Jesus?

**Host:**

In one of his last songs ("The show must go on") Freddie Mercury of Queen sings "What are we living for?"

In addition, during one of his last interviews, Mercury said:

- "I don't have any real friends. I don't think I do. I discard them. People tell me they're friends, but there we are. I don't believe them."
- "You can be in a crowded area and still be the loneliest person, because you don't really belong to anyone."
- "In fact, my kind of loneliness is the hardest to bear. Loneliness doesn't mean being shut away in a room by yourself."

**Question:**

If you were the person who was interviewing him then how would you have responded to him?

Read Ecclesiastes 12:13. How does the Preacher end his book?

**Host:**

If nothing lasts, and ultimately we don't last, then what is the point? That is why we need to hear the preaching of the Preacher. If we don't doubt the perspective of life without God then we won't really appreciate the truth of life with God.

Ecclesiastes paves the way for another Preacher King who comes centuries later. One that not only asks the hardest questions of all but gives us the greatest answers the world has ever known. This man is Jesus Christ. He is the grand subject of the entire Bible and He is the Saviour of all humanity.

We cannot waste our lives living for transiency, absurdity, or meaninglessness. We were meant to look beyond vanity and only the Good News of Christian faith can take us there.

**Question:**

Why can only the Good News of Jesus take us beyond vanity?

**Host:**

The Westminster shorter catechism (questions around the principles of faith) asks the question: 1. What is the chief end of man? The answer it gives is: Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

What is the point in life? It is to know Jesus and to be made more like Him; to live as He calls us to live; to be with Him and His people forever.

How does that manifest itself in our lives? What may need to change? What help might we need to change?

Until we understand nothing matters without Him, we won't understand that everything matters because of Him. Anything else is vanity.

Invitation for Salvation if appropriate: So today in the midst of these crazy and uncertain times, I invite you to invite Jesus to be your personal Saviour. To know that today you can have the assurance of forgiveness and acceptance; to know that you have a hope (Biblical hope is something that is sure and certain) that not even the grave can destroy because Jesus Christ destroyed the grave. I invite you to believe and receive Jesus today and watch how He will change your life.