

Keep It Simple

Ecclesiastes 5:8-12 (NIV)

8 If you see the poor oppressed in a district, and justice and rights denied, do not be surprised at such things; for one official is eyed by a higher one, and over them both are others higher still. 9 The increase from the land is taken by all; the king himself profits from the fields.

10 Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless. 11 As goods increase, so do those who consume them. And what benefit are they to the owners except to feast their eyes on them? 12 The sleep of a laborer is sweet, whether they eat little or much, but as for the rich, their abundance permits them no sleep.

Solomon does not casualize his words.

God, after all, wants the believer to be able to understand the points that are written.

Let's start by focussing on just verses 8 and 9. In fact, we will only be covering these verses today. (read them)

Mankind, in all of the generations of its many, many cultures can surely attest to what this says.

Solomon's government was no exception and our government is no exception.

It is instinctive for us to relate this to the government but this occurs in other organizations.

This is often the case in businesses, sports organizations, and...religious organizations.

Those with much are historically known to not care much for those with little.

In fact, they often use those with little to increase their own personal gain.

But why would we be “surprised” to see the poor oppressed.

Let’s go NT with this though.

Jesus says in Matthew 26:11:

“The poor you will always have with you”

In Luke 11:41 He says to **“be generous to the poor”**

In 2 Cor. 9:9 Paul writes:

“As it is written: “They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.””

In Galatians 2:10 Paul writes:

“All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I had been eager to do all along.”

You see, as believers our hearts are, or at least should be, soft for those with needs.

Why?

Because God has led by example.

It shows us this in Luke 4:18:

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom

for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free,”

The poor are important to Jesus...and they should be to us.

Because of that we struggle with the fact that rulers do not care for the poor.

But in verse 9 Solomon makes a statement that we need to read carefully.

He states that **“the king himself profits from the fields”**.

Solomon is referring to earthly kings and that is indeed a very truthful statement.

But we know Jesus so we need to read this a little differently.

To us, who is king? In 1 Timothy 6:13-16 it says:

“13 In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you 14 to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 which God will bring about in his own time--God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, 16 who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.”

Jesus is KING!

So if Jesus is king...and the king gets the profits of the fields..and the king also cares for the poor...

Then in Jesus' timing and in His ways, He will take the profit of the fields and provide for the poor.

So while we should not be surprised by the greed and lack of care of rulers, we can have hope in the fact that in the end the profit ends in the hands of Jesus and Jesus cares for those in need.

While Solomon is referring to earthly poor, we need to see things from a spiritual perspective.

The rulers of the world want people to be spiritually poor so that they will still rely on earthly rulers.

They will oppress via money, media, and time while leaving people lacking spiritual love which is what they truly need.

Jesus' most significant provision is spiritual love with which He is significantly ready and willing to provide to the spiritually poor.

And that is where our hope rests.

And Romans 8:24 says **“For in this hope we were saved.”**

So let's keep it simple and not get caught up in the activities (or lack of activities) of rulers but stay focused simply on Jesus.