

Pastor Ron Case
9/23/12

“In Pursuit”

“See, this alone I found, that God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes.” (Ecclesiastes 7:29)

Horizontal Shift

Genesis 3:1-5 – (1) “Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, ‘Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’ (2) And the woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, (3) but God said, You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’ (4) But the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not surely die. (5) For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’”

Is Yitron Possible?

Ecclesiastes 1:3 – “What does man gain (*yitron – excess, profit, preminence i.e. margin*) by all the toil at which he toils under the sun?”

Ecclesiastes 2:1-2, 10-11, 17-18 – (1) “I said in my heart, ‘Come now, I will test you with pleasure; enjoy yourself.’ But behold, this also was vanity. (2) I said of laughter, ‘It is mad,’ and of pleasure, ‘What use is it?’ (10) And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil. (11) Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained (*yitron – excess, profit, preminence i.e. margin*) under the sun. (17) So I hated life, because what is done under the sun was grievous to me, for all is vanity and a striving after wind. (18) I hated all my toil in which I toil under the sun...”

‘Doubling-Down’ Disaster

Luke 12:16-21 – (16) “And he told them a parable, saying, ‘The land of a rich man produced plentifully, (17) and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ (18) And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. (19) And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ (20) But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be? (21) So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.’”

Key Point: Direct Your Excessiveness Heavenwards

Response:

Detect & Repent

“...Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?
Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump...”
(1 Corinthians 5:6-7)

Pursue God; Short the World

“And (*Jesus*) said to all, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?’” (Luke 9:23-25)

Be on Guard

“And he said to them, ‘Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.’” (Luke 12:15)

Overreach in God’s Direction

“Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world.”
(1 Timothy 6:6-7)

Questions:

What impacted me the most in this message?

What should I seek first and foremost? (Matt. 6:33)

Who is the ultimate treasure? (Matt. 13:44-46; Phil. 3:10-15)