

GREG LAURIE  
PRESENTS

# STEVE McQUEEN



## AMERICAN ICON



**GREG LAURIE'S SERMON OUTLINE  
AND THE FULL TRANSCRIPT OF HIS  
"STEVE MCQUEEN" MESSAGE ON  
ECCLESIASTES (WITH VIDEO LINKS)**



Use this to generate awareness and mobilize your congregation for your McQueen movie night.

## Sermon Outline: The Foolish Wise Man

- Title/Scripture
- Introduction: boredom and depression
- Pursuing fulfillment. Things we chase after.
- Solomon is ultimate example of pursuing empty things.
- A little background on Solomon.
- Read Ecclesiastes 1:1–3
- Explain “vanity.”
- Read Ecclesiastes 1:1–11
- Celebrities who chase fulfillment but can’t find it.
- [Steve McQueen SERMON ONE FILM CLIP](#)
- Solomon’s background: raised in a godly home
- 1 Kings 3 – Solomon offered carte blanche, requests wisdom
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  2. He compromised his wealth.
  3. He compromised his morality.
- Solomon pursues intellect.
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- Solomon’s conclusion: fear and obey God (Ecclesiastes 12:13–14)
- What does it mean to “fear” God?
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- Personal application: are you like Solomon/Steve in your pursuit for satisfaction?
- Altar call
- Invitation to see and bring a friend to screening of full film

## Sermon

Turn in your Bibles to Ecclesiastes 1. The title of my message is, “The Foolish Wise Man.”

I don’t even think I need to ask this question but I will ask it anyway. How many of you have ever been bored? How many of you are bored right now? Get out now. I haven’t even started!

Boredom is an issue in our culture today. You will see a kid with a smartphone and they are texting their friend while playing a game on their iPad while watching television and then they will still say, “I am bored.” It’s a condition that afflicts more people today than ever before.

Not only are we bored as a modern society but we are depressed as well. I read that the number of Americans who say they’ve taken an antidepressant over the past month has risen by 65% between 1999 and 2014, and that about one in every eight Americans over the age of 12 reports recent antidepressant use. And it’s not just a passing trend; it’s a long-term epidemic. In fact, one-fourth of all the people who were surveyed that were taking antidepressants reported having taken them *for 10 years or more*.<sup>1</sup>

We are a nation of bored and depressed people. Is that a description of you? Maybe there are a lot of things you have tried in life to get that buzz—to get that thrill, that charge, to reach that high.

I saw an interesting person being interviewed a while back. Her name is Robin Smith. She is a doctor. She has written a book called *Hungry: The Truth about Being Full*. She writes about people who have achieved phenomenal success in life. She called it being hungry for the high note. She made an interesting statement. Speaking about Michael Jackson and Whitney Houston,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/antidepressant-use-soars-65-percent-in-15-years/>

who of course died early deaths, she points out in her book, “People say that drugs killed them. Drugs did not kill them. What killed them is they were striving and hungry. They were striving to hit the high note again.” In fact, in an interview that Whitney did with Oprah not long before she died, she actually said, “I am trying to hit the high note again.” Massive record sales. Worldwide success. Then suddenly they can’t reach that plateau again, and they go into deep depression.

Listen. Boredom and depression are nothing new. There was a guy that wrote these words: “There is nothing new under the sun.” That is the guy we are going to focus on right now. This is a man who lived centuries ago and yet experienced these same issues. He was an architectural genius, masterminding the building of incredible structures. He was worth billions. I am not talking about Bill Gates or Rupert Murdoch or Donald Trump. I am talking about a man that was a king over Israel. His name was Solomon.

You might say that Solomon tried it all. If anyone could ever say, “Been there, done that, bought the T-shirt,” it was certainly Solomon. In fact, he was what you might describe as a “hedonist extraordinaire,” making Hugh Hefner look like a lightweight in comparison. Solomon was highly educated, yet he would go on these unbelievable drinking binges. He chased after women like there was no tomorrow. He committed himself to researching the roots of human behavior to discover why people did what they do. Meanwhile as a king, he ignored the affairs of state. He neglected his family. He set aside all spiritual truths and principle and—whether it was passion, pleasure, philosophy, sex, or money—he determined to find out everything he could about the topic. He explored it from every side. He tried it personally.

You might say that sounds like fun. It wasn’t so much fun, as we will see when we come to the conclusion of his story. In fact Solomon ended up squandering amazing opportunities and effectively throwing away most of his life.

One of the things I appreciate about the Bible is that it is a thoroughly honest book. If someone does well, it tells us that. If someone does well and has a fall, it tells us that too. If someone does horribly, it says so. There is no whitewashing in the Scripture. There is no cover-up in the Scripture. There is no spin in the biblical stories. Because the Bible is direct and honest. It gives us its heroes, warts and all.

Now, some people seem to get it right, from the beginning to end, like Joseph and Daniel. Others got it right sometimes, like Samson and Saul. Others *mostly* got it right, like King David. And some got it mostly wrong—like Solomon.

Who was this guy? He was the son of David and Bathsheba. He became the ruler over Israel after his father's death. He had the potential to be a great king because, as it turns out, God gave to Solomon supernatural wisdom on a scale that was not known up to that point. He was renowned as the wisest man on the face of the earth. Not only that, but he had this amazing godly heritage. We know his father, David, slipped up but let's not forget that David was uniquely described as the "man after God's own heart." David got a lot of things right and passed those things on to Solomon. But Solomon followed them for a while and then just chucked them and went his own way as he went on his search for the meaning of life.

His conclusion after his vain search was as follows. Ecclesiastes 1:1-3: "The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem. 'Vanity of vanities,' says the Preacher; 'Vanity of vanities, all is vanity' (NKJV). What profit has a man from all his labor in which he toils under the sun?"

What does that even mean? Understand when Solomon uses the word *vanity* it doesn't mean the same thing it means to us today. When we think of vanity we think of a vain person. The kind of person who's never seen a mirror they didn't like. A person that loves to look at their own reflection and talk about themselves and focus on themselves. That is not actually what the word

means that Solomon uses. And as a matter of fact, this word *vanity* is used 38 times in Ecclesiastes. The word could be translated “emptiness.” You could just as easily translate that verse as, “Emptiness, emptiness, all is emptiness.” Or “futility.” Or “meaninglessness.” Or “a wisp of a vapor.” Or “a hollow empty ring” or “nothingness.” Solomon is effectively saying there is nothing under this earth that will satisfy us completely. No thing. No pleasure. No relationship. He had tried everything you could try.

It is not unlike a person getting on one of those stationary bicycles. Nowadays they are more high-tech than they used to be. They have a little video screen. On your little screen you are going up a hill so it gets a little harder to ride. Then you are going down a hill and it is a little bit easier. It is very exciting because you are riding through all of these places but the reality is you never moved an inch. That is sort of the idea that is being conveyed here. You are spinning your wheels, but you are not going anywhere.

Here are more of Solomon’s conclusions about life without God, from Ecclesiastes 1:1–11.

“These are the words of the Teacher King David’s son, who ruled in Jerusalem. ‘Everything is meaningless, completely meaningless!’ What do people get for all their hard work under the sun? Generations come and generations go, but the earth never changes. The sun rises and the sun sets, then hurries around to rise again. The wind blows south, and then turns north. Around and around it goes, blowing in circles. Rivers run into the sea, but the sea is never full. Then the water returns again to the rivers and flows out again to the sea. Everything is wearisome beyond description. No matter how much we see, we are never satisfied. No matter how much we hear, we are not content. History merely repeats itself. It has all been done before. Nothing under the sun is truly new. What can you point out that is new? How do you know it didn’t exist long ago? We don’t remember what happened in former times.” (NLT)

Wow, what a downer this guy is. How can anyone be so depressed? Because he did everything.

Have you ever wondered why high-profile people who are super rich or super famous often have substance issues or alcohol issues and other problems? Why is that? They get to do what others only dream about. As long as you have the dream, as long as you think, “One of these days, I will have this success,” or “One of these days, I will get this car” or “that house” or “this career” or “that accomplishment” or whatever—while you are pursuing those things, you think you will eventually find fulfilment. But so many of these celebrities show us that achieving those dreams doesn’t bring the satisfaction they were hoping for. They accomplish one thing, then move on to the next level. They do that. They move to the next level. They do that. They can’t keep that high that they were on. They can’t hit the high note any longer. So they turn to other things.

Steve McQueen is someone who was like Solomon in his pursuits for satisfaction. Let me show you a little clip from the new movie about his life. We are going to be showing this movie in full on XXXXXXXX. But I want you to see a portion of it now.

[\[Please play this video clip, SERMON FILM CLIP ONE\]](#)

Steve McQueen had fame, fortune, women, drugs and alcohol, but none of it satisfied. Like Solomon, he was on a search for something significant, but it evaded him.

As I already mentioned, Solomon was raised in a godly home. Listen to this advice his dad gave him on his deathbed. King David said to his son, “Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the LORD searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts” (1 Chronicles 28:9 NKJV).

His dad was essentially saying to him, “Son, listen to me. I know a thing or two about life. I have made my mistakes. Don’t forget what happened with your mother and me. I don’t want that to

happen to you. I want you to learn from my mistakes. But I also followed the Lord and served the Lord. You know that I suffered a lot as Saul hunted me down and persecuted me but I never struck back. I kept my heart right before God. You need to serve the Lord with an undivided heart. You can't live off of my faith, Son. You need your own faith."

That is true for all of us. As parents, we want to pass that legacy on. We want our kids to get it. We want our grandchildren to get it. We want our God to become their God. As Ruth said to her mother-in-law, Naomi, "Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God" (Ruth 1:16 NKJV).

Initially Solomon followed his father's advice. His heart was not divided at first. But then he started opening himself up to things he had no business being a part of. Things went from bad to worse. He went on his little research project to see what was out there.

Listen. Just to show you how well he started and how off-track he got, let's go to 1 Kings 3:5. Here is Solomon now as a young boy. He has just taken over from his dad. His father is in Heaven: "That night the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream, and God said, 'What do you want? Ask, and I will give it to you!'" (NLT).

Just imagine that for a moment. Imagine if God came to you tonight and said, "Ask what you want and I will give it to you." What would you say? He didn't put any conditions on it. He just said, "Ask, and I will give it to you!" It is *carte blanche*. Whatever you want, ask for it now.

Look at Solomon's reply in verse 6.

"Solomon replied, 'You showed faithful love to your servant my father, David, because he was honest and true and faithful to you. And you have continued your faithful love to him today by giving him a son to sit on his throne. Now, O LORD

my God, you have made me king instead of my father, David, but I am like a little child who doesn't know his way around. And here I am in the midst of your own chosen people, a nation so great and numerous they cannot be counted!”

Now look at what he asked for in verse 9.

“Give me an understanding heart so that I can govern your people well and know the difference between right and wrong. For who by himself is able to govern this great people of yours?” The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for wisdom. So God replied, ‘Because you have asked for wisdom in governing my people with justice and have not asked for a long life or wealth or the death of your enemies—I will give you what you asked for! I will give you a wise and understanding heart such as no one else has had or ever will have! And I will also give you what you did not ask for—riches and fame! No other king in all the world will be compared to you for the rest of your life!’”

I love that.

This is the Lord effectively offering a blank check to Solomon. And because Solomon had his priorities in order, he prayed the right way.

You wonder, “Would God ever do this for me?” As a matter of fact, He will. Listen to this. Jesus said in John 15:7, “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you” (NKJV). Another translator put that same verse this way: “If you maintain a living communion with me and my words are at home in you, I command you to ask at once...whatever your heart desires, and it will become yours” (Kenneth Wurst Translation). That sounds really great. “Whatever your heart desires.” We sort of gravitate toward that part of the promise. “Whatever my heart desires.” Wait a second. Don’t miss the condition. Jesus said, “If you maintain a living communion with me and my words are at home with you.”

Listen, if you are walking in close fellowship with God and His Word is at home in your heart, you are going to pray for things that bring God glory. If you are praying for self-indulgent things it would be doubtful you are maintaining a living communion with Him and that His Word is at home in you. Solomon was living the right way.

What is the purpose of prayer really? To talk God into something? Do you really want to talk God into something? I don't think so. The idea of prayer is not to get God to do what I want Him to do. Prayer is to get me in alliance with the will of God. If I am in my little boat and I want to get to the dock and I take my rope and throw it up on that dock and I start pulling myself toward it, what is happening? Is the dock being pulled toward the boat or is the boat being pulled toward the dock? It is the latter. It is the boat being pulled toward the dock. When I pray, am I pulling God toward me? "Come on, God! This way!" No. I am pulling myself toward God. That is what Solomon did.

It reminds me of the promise of Jesus when He says, "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all of these things shall be added to you" (NKJV). What is the context of that statement? He was saying, don't be like the nonbelievers who obsess over what they are going to drink, what they are going to eat, what they are going to wear. Don't worry about that stuff. But you instead seek first the kingdom—or put God first in your life—and all of these things shall be added to you. He will give you what you need.

In the same way, Solomon had his priorities in order. Now the Lord tacks on these amazing blessings: I am going to give you a long life. I am going to give you wealth. I am going to give you all of these things you did not ask for because you asked for wisdom.

God will give you what you need. He will supply all of your needs according to His riches and glory in Christ according to Philippians 4:19. By the way, that verse does not say He will supply all of your *greeds*. It says He will supply all of your *needs*.

You have heard the expression “Be careful what you wish for; you might get it.” That is true. You don’t want God to grant to you whatever you desire because you might end up asking for the wrong thing.

There was a guy who was stranded on a desert island. He saw some kind of a lamp lying in the sand. “What is this?” He picked it up and rubbed the sand off. Of course a genie appears. The genie says, “I will give to you three wishes.” He says, “Genie, I wish to be off of this island and instead in a Cadillac convertible cruising down PCH.” Poof! Both wishes were granted. He is cruising along. It is so great. He has one wish left. The genie says, “What is your last wish?” He says, “I am going to hang on to that. I will let you know. Don’t worry about it.” The guy turned on the radio and absentmindedly starts singing along with the commercial. “Oh, I wish I were an Oscar Meyer Wiener...”

The problem with that joke is that it is a dated reference. There used to be a song for Oscar Meyer Wieners... Most of you are probably too young to remember. Anyway, the point is, be careful what you wish for! You might get it.

Let’s look at three problems that led to Solomon’s fall.

1. **He compromised His walk.** Solomon had a relationship with God to start with. As a matter of fact, he built the temple. David wanted to build a temple and the Lord said to David, “No, you have shed too much blood. You are not going to do it.” But David amassed a lot of money toward this project. It was his son Solomon that was able to bring it about. When that first temple was dedicated to God, Solomon said,

“May [the Lord] give us the desire to do his will in everything and obey all of his commands, laws, and regulations that he gave our ancestors. . . . And may you, his people, always be faithful to the LORD our God. May you always obey His laws and commands, just as you are doing today.” (1 Kings 8:58, 61 NLT)

That sounded great. There is just one problem. Solomon himself was not doing that. He had already disobeyed God by marrying a nonbeliever. 1 Kings 3 says,

“Solomon made an alliance with Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, and married one of his daughters. . . . At that time the people of Israel sacrificed their offerings on the local altars, for a temple honoring the name of the Lord had not been built. Solomon loved the LORD and followed the instruction of his father, David, except that Solomon, too, offered sacrifices and burned incense at the local altars.” (1 Kings 3:1–2 NLT)

At this point, before the temple was built, the people would offer their sacrifices to God on pagan altars and Solomon did this too, all the while saying he loved the Lord. Why? Because he was married to this nonbelieving Egyptian woman. She worshipped false gods so he worshipped false gods.

Here is how it works in the real world. You marry a nonbeliever and you think you are going to pull them up spiritually. News flash: they are going to pull you down instead. What happened to Solomon? Did he get her to worship the true and living God? No. She got him to worship on pagan altars. That is always the way it works out. That is why the Bible tells us not to be “unequally yoked.” 2 Corinthians 6:14 tell us, “Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?” (NKJV).

You are going to get pulled down. You are going to compromise. That is what Solomon did and as one thing led to another with him, things went from bad to worse.

2. **He compromised his wealth.** Solomon amassed a huge fortune. People would pay him large amounts of money to hear his great wisdom. This guy was so wise that people would come from around the world to sit at his feet and ask him questions. The Queen of Sheba herself said the half hasn't even been told how wise this guy is.

Solomon made a lot of money out of all of these opportunities. He hoarded that money. Money is a wonderful servant but it is a hard taskmaster. That is one of the reasons why the Lord tells us that we should faithfully give to Him. Because when I give back to God, I am saying (A) I recognize everything that I have comes from Him, and (B) I am giving back to Him and investing in His kingdom.

Some people don't do this. As a matter of fact, most surveys that have been done reveal that the average American Christian gives an average of 2–3% of their income. Nine to 10 give nothing at all. Yet God says in the book of Malachi, "Do people cheat God? As a matter of fact, you have cheated Me." The people say, "When have we cheated you?" God says, "You have cheated Me out of the tithes and offerings due to Me. You are under a curse. Your nation has been cheating Me. Bring all of the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in My temple. If you do," the Lord says, "I will open up the windows of heaven for you and pour you out a blessing so great you won't have room enough to receive it" (see Malachi 3:8–10).

3. **He compromised his morality.** As if it wasn't bad enough that he married a nonbeliever, Solomon started a collection of wives. He had 700 wives. I am not making this up. And if that wasn't enough, he had 300 concubines. A thousand women effectively at his disposal. Not only was this wrong morally, but it caused him to turn to other gods. In 1 Kings 11, God says, "You shall not associate with them, nor shall they associate with you, for they will surely turn your

heart away after their gods” (verse 2 NASB). But Solomon “held fast” to these in his heart; and he was not wholly devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of his father David had been. Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and He did not follow the Lord fully as David his father had done (see verse 4). He is involved with all of these women and his heart turns toward the false gods that they worshipped.

Now what happens? Here in Ecclesiastes 1 we are going to see what he did. Verse 13 says, “I set my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all that is done under heaven” (NKJV). This word *seek* could be translated “explore.” In fact in the Hebrew it could be translated “to investigate the roots of a matter.” Solomon is effectively making this his research project. He is going to research the roots of human behavior. *Why do people do what they do?*

He started by getting the finest education available in his day. Yet despite that fantastic education there was still an emptiness in his life. In Ecclesiastes 1:16, he essentially says, “Look, I am wiser than any of the kings that ruled in Jerusalem before me. I have greater wisdom and knowledge than any of them. I work hard to distinguish myself from foolishness but even now I realize that this was like chasing the wind—for the greater my wisdom, the greater my grief.” Why is that? Because he was seeking wisdom without God. That left him empty. It always will.

So he shifts gears. He is going to go from being a brainiac to a party animal. “All right. Academic pursuit isn’t doing it for me. It leaves me empty. I am going to check my brains at the door and party.”

Ecclesiastes 2:1–2: “I said to myself, ‘Come now, let’s give pleasure a try. Let’s look for the “good things” in life.’ But I found that this, too, was meaningless. ‘It is silly to be laughing all the time,’ I said. ‘What good does it do to seek only pleasure?’”

Some people just want to be distracted. They just want to laugh—to laugh about whatever. To just get a little escape from their problems. Comedian Jerry Seinfeld said, “Everyone is looking for good sex, good food, and a good laugh. They are little islands of relief in often what is a painful existence.”

Just a little laugh. A little distraction. But the Bible says, “Even in laughter the heart may sorrow” (Proverbs 14:13 NKJV). Maybe that is reality for you now. You are at a party with all of your friends and everyone is laughing and having a good time. You have had a few drinks. You don’t even know what you are laughing at. Have you ever noticed how drunk people laugh at nothing? The more they drink, the more they laugh—at who knows what.

I am all for laughter. I am all for joy. I am all for humor. But it is stupid to be laughing all the time. And sometimes we should be mourning when we are laughing.

Solomon realized that it was an empty kind of a laughter he was experiencing. So he continues in his pursuit, but he says, “I am going to get into drinking.” Ecclesiastes 2:3: “After much thought, I decided to cheer myself with wine. And while still seeking wisdom, I clutched at foolishness. In this way, I tried to experience the only happiness most people find during their brief life in this world” (NLT). He became a wine connoisseur. But after his hangovers, he saw how empty that was too.

He shifts gears again. With unlimited resources at his disposal, he thinks, “I am going to just build stuff. I am going to build the coolest palaces and the most lavish homes ever seen.”

Ecclesiastes 2:8, 11:

“I collected great sums of silver and gold, the treasure of many kings and provinces. I hired wonderful singers, both men and women, and had many

beautiful concubines. I had everything a man could desire! . . . But as I looked at everything I had worked so hard to accomplish, it was all so meaningless. It was like chasing the wind. There was nothing really worthwhile anywhere.”

Solomon would book the best singers. When you are this rich you can have whoever you want, and you pay them whatever they charge. I read that there are a lot of bands out there that will go and play at private functions. A lot of times we don’t hear about this. Celine Dion for a private party charges \$6,500,000. The Rolling Stones charged a Texas investor \$7,000,000 to play an hour-long set. The Eagles charged over \$6,000,000 to play *one song* at a private party: “Hotel California.”

That is the kind of wealth Solomon had. He didn’t listen to the recording. He brought the artist in. He had the person right in front of him singing. But even that, he said, was empty.

Now he is coming to a clear conclusion at the end of Ecclesiastes. Among other things, he deeply regretted wasting his youth. He doesn’t want others to make the same mistake. In Ecclesiastes 12:1, he says. “Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, before the difficult days come, and the years draw near when you say, ‘I have no pleasure in them’” (NKJV), or as the New Living Translation puts it, “Don’t let the excitement of youth cause you to forget your Creator. Honor him in your youth before you grow old and no longer enjoy living.”

Youth is such an important time in life. You set the course of your life there. The evening of your life is decided by the morning of it—the end by the beginning. Solomon is saying, “Don’t waste your youth. Don’t throw your youth away.”

*[If applicable, relate personal experience or story from your youth.]*

By the way, that is one of the reasons why at our church we are always seeking to reach the next generation. Every year we are thinking what is the best way to connect to our culture?

*[Talk about youth outreach, ministry, and opportunities at your church]*

Sometimes people are critical: “We don’t like the music you are using now. It is not our style.” So what? News flash: it is not about you. Why don’t you think about some kids that would connect with it and load your vehicle up and bring them here to hear it? Here is why youth ministry is important: most people make their commitment to Christ before the age of 17. We want to keep reaching the next generation, right?

So Here is Solomon. He is saying, “I have done it all. Don’t do what I did. Learn from my mistakes. Don’t forget the Creator in the days of your youth.” Now he is building to the big crescendo. “I have done everything. I have tried everything. I have experienced everything. Here now, I am going to tell you what I have learned.” Are you ready? Here it is. Ecclesiastes 12:13–14:

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man’s all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.”

I love that. Here is the sum of the matter: fear God. You say, “I already knew that.” Yes, but are you doing it? What did Solomon’s dad tell him? “Fear the Lord with an undivided heart. Solomon learn from my mistakes. Don’t do what your old man did. Try to live your life right.” At first he had it down. Then he started wandering off and got himself into all kinds of trouble.

But now he is saying, “I am a seasoned pro. I know what I am talking about here. If you take God out of the picture, your life is going to be empty and meaningless and futile. However, if you want a full life, if you want life as it was meant to be lived, then fear God.”

What does it mean to fear God? Does it mean to walk around cowering in fear that God is going to smack you around a little bit? No. The word *fear* could also be translated “reverence.” We could translate it “respect God.” Have an awe of God. I know people like to think of the Lord as their buddy and best friend, but listen: God is the Creator of the universe. He is holy and righteous. Don’t forget that about your Buddy. He is not just your Companion. He is your Creator. He is your Lord. He is your Master. You should submit to Him and follow Him. To fear God means to have reverence for Him. It is a healthy respect. That is what Solomon was saying. Have reverence for God; keep His commandments.

He has given us His commandments like guardrails in life to keep us on the road so we don’t get ourselves in trouble. Live by God’s standards. Have reverence for the Lord. That is what Solomon learned. In fact he says, “This is man’s all,” and a better way to translate that would be “This is what will make a whole man.” If you want to be a whole man or a whole woman then this is what you need to do: you need to fear God.

So many say God doesn’t know what He is talking about. They go out there and have to learn everything the hard way. How many more people are going to have to make these mistakes? How many more marriages destroyed? How many more children deprived of both parents? How many more lives destroyed by substance abuse? How many more people are going to just chase after material things and never think of others? Some people love people and use money. Others love money and use people. What do you do?

Don’t waste your life as Solomon did. He did self-destruct. But, thank God, in the end he came around, and that is why he had something to say to all of us.

Coming back to Steve McQueen, after a lifetime of empty pursuits, he finally found what he was looking for in Jesus Christ. After spending many hours talking about Christ with his flight instructor, Sammy Mason, Steve decided to become a Christian. Let's watch another clip that talks about his conversion.

[\[Please play this video clip, SERMON FILM CLIP TWO\]](#)

Isn't that great?

So, the book of Ecclesiastes is basically Solomon's account of what he had learned the hard way. He indeed was "the foolish wise man." He told the people at the dedication of the temple how to live, but he himself did not live that way.

Let's think about that right now. Some of you are young. Some of you *think* you are still young. Some of us would admit we are getting older. You are what you are and you are where you are in life. You can't change that. I am sure if we could, many of us would turn the clock back and maybe not do some of the things we did. You can't change that any more than you can unscramble an egg. What is done is done. Let's deal with "right now."

Here you are today. Maybe you are very young. Maybe you are at the midpoint in life. Maybe you are a little bit older. Whatever the case, you can say, "From this moment on I am going to dedicate my life to God. From this moment on I am not going to have a divided heart. From this moment on I am going to seek to live a life that is right before the Lord morally. From this moment on I am going to try to do what will bring glory to God. I can't change my past. All I can do is ask God to forgive me for it and hopefully I will learn from my mistakes. Now I can walk forward."

Listen, you don't decide the date of your birth and you don't decide the date of your death, but you have everything to say about the little dash in the middle. You have to live that well. Solomon didn't do a great job, but in the end he came around. That was good.

I wonder where you are right now. Most of you would say, "I am sitting here in church looking at you." I know that. Here is what I am asking. *Where are you at spiritually?* Are you a person that has maybe been drawn to some of these things? Maybe you have even been raised in the church but you are sort of attracted to some of the things the Bible has told you to steer clear of. You are like that moth drawn to the light. Learn the lesson of these guys who did it all and reaped the consequences. Don't go that way.

Maybe there are some of you that walked with the Lord for a time but now later in life you are starting to compromise. You need to come back and make a recommitment to Him.

There are some of you here maybe that have never asked Jesus Christ to come into your life. You never asked Him to forgive you of your sin. You don't know what it is to have this relationship with God.

Solomon's used this phrase a lot in the book of Ecclesiastes: "under the sun." He said that life is empty under the sun—without God. The problem was Solomon didn't know about life under the *Son*. S-O-N. Everything can change when you stop living under the sun and start living for the Son. The Son of God. When you start following Him and living for Him. Then you will find the purpose and meaning in life you desire.

*[Give invitation for people to pray with you to start following Christ]*

Maybe you know someone who, like Solomon, or like Steve McQueen, has been pursuing the wrong things in search of fulfillment. Money, sex, fame, wisdom, pleasure, possessions—you name it. On [DATE] our church is going to be showing the entire Steve McQueen movie for free right here in [LOCATION]. This is a great opportunity for you to pray for, invite, and bring those people with you so see the movie. The film clearly presents the gospel and gives people the opportunity to make a decision to follow Jesus Christ.

So please be in prayer about who you should invite to the film screening on ... [REPEAT DETAILS].

God bless you.