

THANK YOU FOR
JOINING US TODAY!


UPCOMING EVENTS:


Baptism



Do you have a desire to be baptized but large crowds intimidate you? Or maybe just have more questions? Stop by the Welcome Center for more details and/or attend one of our *Baptism Informational Meetings on Sunday March 30, or April 14 following each of our Sunday Services.*

We will hold two baptisms this year: May 5th (smaller setting) and September 1st (large party).

Follow Us Online

 www.ourelement.org

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Gospel Community (GC)

GC's are our primary organizing structure here at Element. It's where we see Disciple Making take place when we orient our lives together, on and around the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is where we commit to grow as a disciple, disciple others, and make disciples; to share our lives so they are visible and accessible.

DISCIPLE: A disciple is one who increasingly submits their life to the all-empowering Lordship of Jesus Christ.

JOIN: Connect with a Group by emailing connect@ourelement.org or visiting the Welcome Center.

Join Our Weekly Email Update

Sign up using a Connect Card located under the seat in front of you or by going to ourelement.org.



Week 9: Wickedness and Justice *Ecclesiastes 3:16-17*

TODAY'S VERSES:

Ecclesiastes 3:16-17
Psalm 73:3
Ecclesiastes 4:1

John 10:22-24
John 10:25-27
Isaiah 35:5-6
John 10:30

Deuteronomy 6:4
John 10:34-39
Psalm 82:1-8

Week 9: Wickedness and Justice

Ecclesiastes 3:16-17

Welcome to Element! We are going through the book of Ecclesiastes which is the words of King Solomon near the end of his life looking back with regret over the choices he has made. This book is philosophical in nature and looks at the question, “what matters in this life?” Today we look at Solomon’s words about wickedness and justice, but not from the normal perspective of how there is evil in the world (we will cover that later in Ecclesiastes). Today we look at evil and injustice from our perceived expectations.

What has been the greatest injustice you have personally experienced in your life?

How have you dealt with that?

What expectations have you put on others that you feel you have been let down by?

Ecclesiastes 3:16-17 - Moreover, I saw under the sun that in the place of justice, even there was wickedness, and in the place of righteousness, even there was wickedness. I said in my heart, God will judge the righteous and the wicked, for there is a time for every matter and for every work.

How do you understand Justice and Wickedness?

How does the fact that injustice exists effect your view of God?

What would you call justice or injustice in today’s culture?

If someone sins against you, or what you perceive as “sinned” against you, you can either forgive them or you can become bitter and in the end most likely question God’s justice. This comes about in three ways:

1. Someone really did sin against us which makes us have to ask what we will do with the hurt.
2. Someone really didn’t sin against us and we just think they did because an expectation wasn’t met.

3. Someone has what James 3:14 calls bitter/envy/selfish ambition and they became jealous of something you have/had in your life.

Jesus Himself experienced those around Him feeling like He let them down because of unmet expectations and jealousy on their part (number 2 and 3 above).

Have you ever had someone have unrealistic expectations about you that either you didn’t know about or couldn’t meet?

What were they?

Have you ever had unrealistic expectations about someone else?

How did that work out?

Have you ever had unrealistic expectations about Jesus?

In John 10:25-39 the religious leaders want to kill Jesus because they had expectations of their own. They had ideals that the Messiah was supposed to meet, and when Jesus didn’t meet them they wanted to get rid of Him. The One who truly came to deal with wickedness and bring ultimate justice is the One that many religious people didn’t understand because they had their own ideas of justice. Which leads back to the last question again:

Have you ever had unrealistic expectations about Jesus?

Too often we put our expectations on Jesus and never stop to ask the more important question:

What are Jesus’ expectations for us?

God’s expectation is for us to believe in Jesus and His atoning work for us, that we would let Him change our hearts and lives, and that we would become child-like in our faith and trust Him in all things. He is the only true God and He will bring about His justice in the midst of our speaking of His mercy and grace.