



SUNDAY - April 19, 2026

The Grind: Ecclesiastes 3:16-22 - Dust To Dust

SERMON SUMMARY:

Ecclesiastes 3:16–22 shifts from confidence in God’s ordered seasons to an honest wrestling with injustice and mortality. Solomon observes a world where wrongdoing often prospers and righteousness goes unrewarded, exposing the fragile gap between expectation and reality. Human behavior can slip into something beastlike when power overrides compassion, and the deepest wounds often come from those closest. This tension crescendos in the question of death itself—whether life ends in silence or if something of the human soul endures beyond the grave.

From there, the sermon explores competing views of what comes next, showing how beliefs about eternity shape how people live now. While some perspectives lead to despair or detached living, biblical hope anchors itself in God’s justice and the promise of resurrection. Solomon models a response of preaching truth to his own heart: though doubt is real, God will ultimately make things right. Through Christ, the promise of resurrection and final judgment transforms fear into courage, freeing people from bitterness and grounding them in hope, culminating in remembrance of that redemption through communion.

SCRIPTURE:

Ecclesiastes 3:16-22, Matthew 22:32, 1 Corinthians 15:16-19

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What three main doubts or problems does the text identify as surfacing after a confident faith (v. 16, v. 18, v. 19-21)?
2. According to the text, what is the common fate shared by humans and animals, and what question does this raise (v. 19-21)?
3. What is the immediate, worldly advice the text gives for dealing with the reality of death and hard work (v. 22)?
4. Where in the passage is a note of hope inserted, and what is the object of that hope (v. 17)?
5. The text observes that the places meant for justice are instead filled with wickedness. Why would this reality be especially troubling for someone trying to live a disciplined, righteous life?
6. The phrase "they are but beasts" is used to describe human behavior. What does it mean for an image-bearer of God to act like a beast, and what are the real-life consequences of this behavior?
7. If death is truly the end and there is no afterlife, how does that belief fundamentally change a person's approach to daily life, ethics, and dealing with suffering?
8. How does the belief that "God will judge the righteous and the wicked" provide a foundation for forgiving someone who has caused deep emotional pain, rather than seeking personal vengeance?