

# Let's Pretend

**Ecclesiastes 1:1-11**





# What Does it Profit? vv.1-3

- All is vanity:
  - Hevel - Smoke or vapor. (Ps.34:5-6, 11)
  - Life is illusive, paradoxical, and cannot be tamed.
- What gain is there? v.3
  - What does a person hope to get out of life?
  - Luke 12:16-20; Mark 8:36
  - Nothing!



# Life is Repetitive vv.4-8

- The world around us either goes around and around or it comes and goes generation after generation.
- Creation is hard at work doing the things it has always done.
- But there is no end to it v.8
  - There is always the next \_\_\_\_\_.
  - **Genesis 11:6** - No end to man's ambitions.
  - **Psalms 8:3** - No end to the expanse of the universe.



ALL THINGS ARE  
WEARISOME  
MORE THAN ONE CAN SAY.

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THE EYE NEVER HAS ENOUGH OF SEEING,  
NOR THE EAR ITS FILL OF HEARING.

ECCLESIASTES 1:8

# Nothing New Under the Sun

## vv.9-11

- The more things change the more they stay the same: v.9
  - Sin is still sin, even with “new” names.
  - A government is still a government.
  - Toys are still toys.
- Humans long for something *more* and so we spend our lives looking for *it*. v.10
- We do so with no regard for history or even for what the *it* is v.11



# ***Memento mori:***

- Remember death:
  - “At the outset, 1:1-11 sketches a very basic point: accepting death is the first step in learning how to live.” (Gibson 29)
  - Solomon is not simply saying there’s no gain in “striving after the wind” he’s also saying that there’s no need to strive in the first place.
  - The rest of Ecclesiastes will be a mediation on what is and what is not worth our striving.

