

The Happiness Code

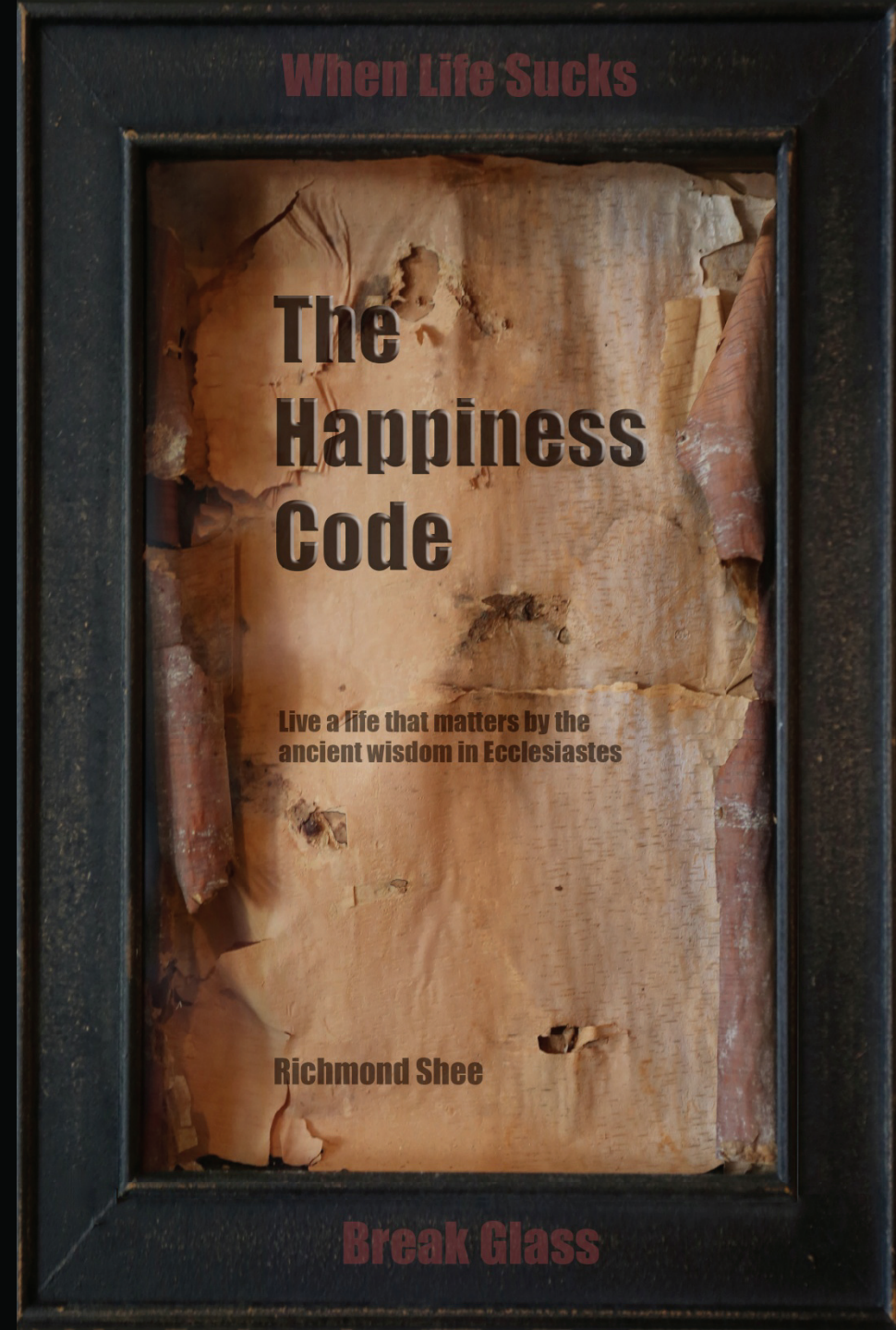
Week 10 – Vanity of Wealth

Ecclesiastes 5:10 – 6:12



Week #10: Level Set

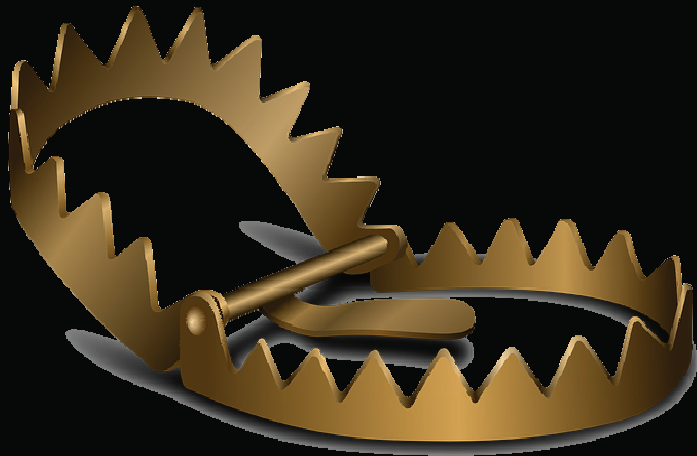
What kind of person will you be if money buys happiness?



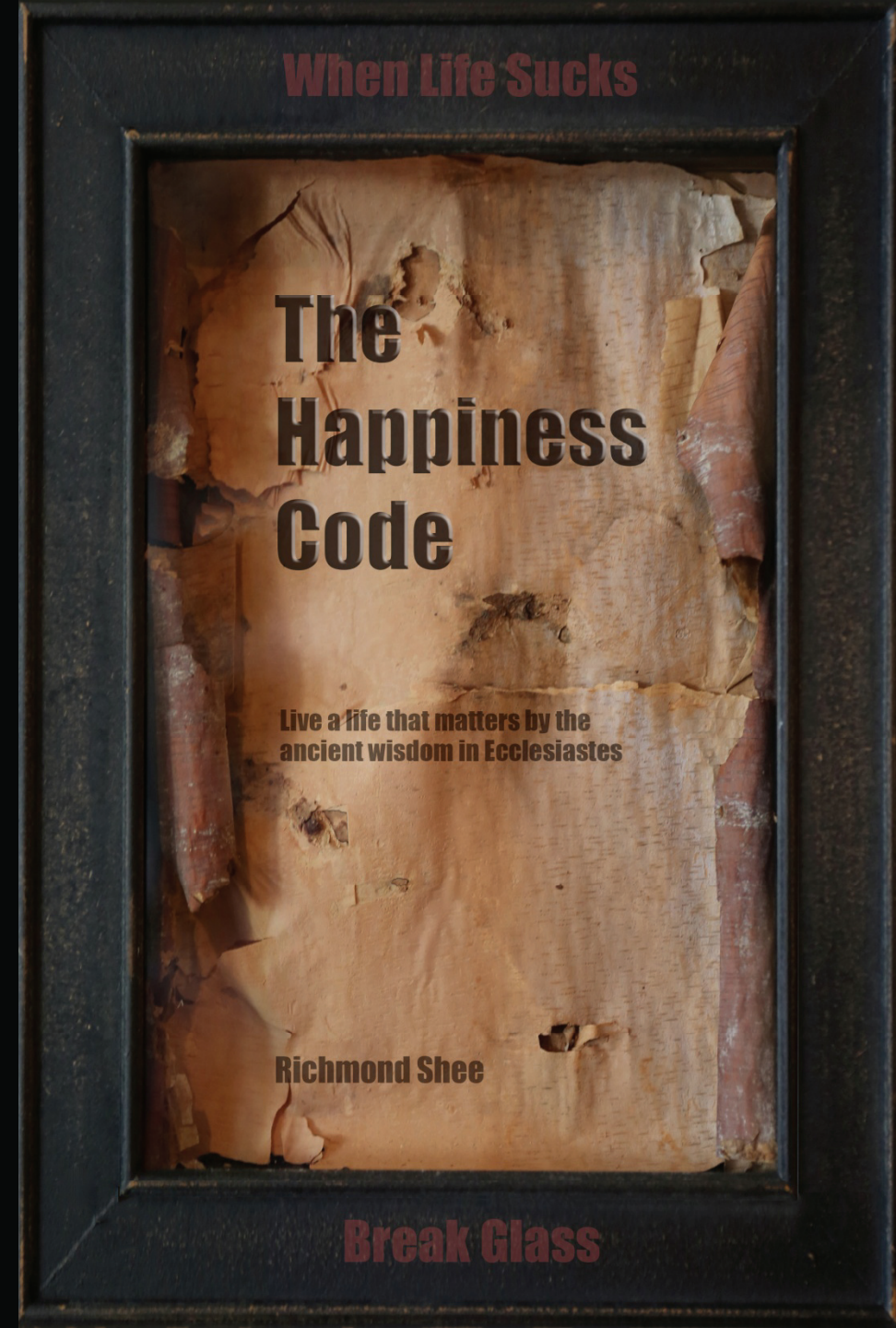
Week #10: Level Set

Hello hoarders of riches, five traps await you.
Two of the traps are wicked.

On trial is an extreme case of covetousness for worldly riches, to show that if such an extreme effort to collect wealth does not yield happiness, there is no hope for less enthusiastic hopefuls.



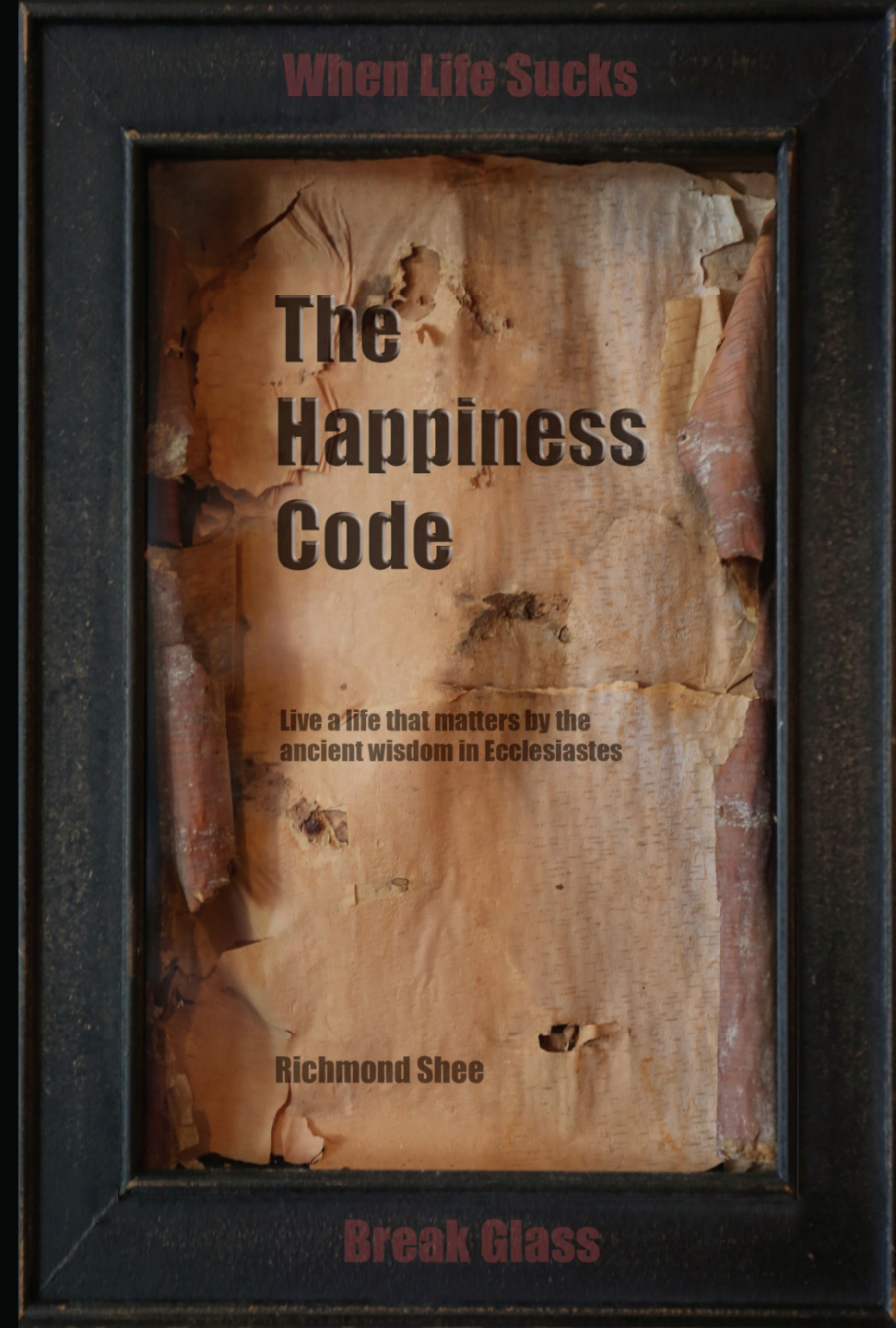
- Dissatisfying
- Disappearing
- Disquieting
- Disintegrating
- Displacing



Week #10: Level Set

Outline

- The vanity of wealth in securing happiness
Ecc 5:10-17.
- The vanity of wealth without use
Ecc 5:18 – 6:12.

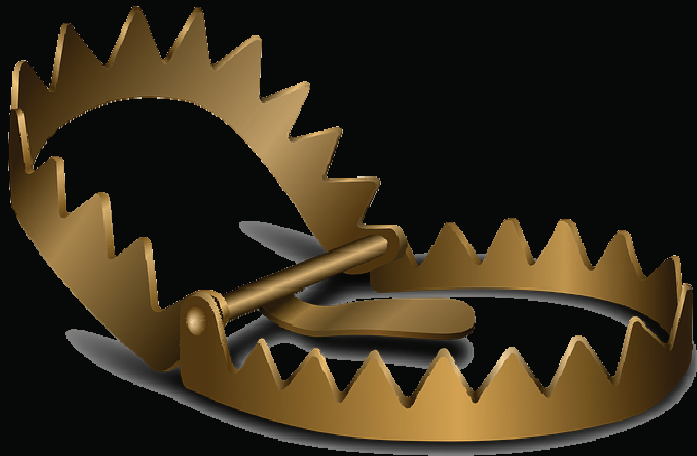


Ecc 5:10 He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity.



- Silver => a form of money.
- Happiness does not lie in money or in the abundance of possessions.
 - People are defeated by the very thing that they hope to secure happiness in.
- Profile of a money lover.

#1 Dissatisfying



1Tim 6:8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

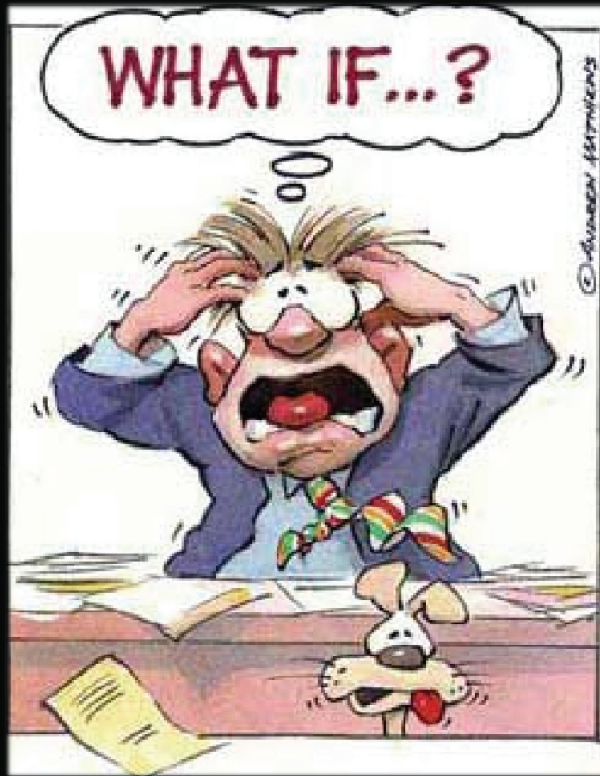
Ecc 5:11 When goods increase, they are increased that eat them: and what good is there to the owners thereof, saving the beholding of them with their eyes?



#2 Disappearing

- Like magic, worldly riches are a disappearing act.
 - Proverbs 23:5 Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven.
- Dilemma of people who hope for happiness in the abundance of riches:
 - Foolish not to enjoy life because it is short.
 - A lifestyle upgrade comes with additional expenditures and an entourage of dependents.
 - Seeing their goods and bank account balances is the only good thing that comes out of this.
- Luke 12:15 And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

Ecc 5:12 The sleep of a labouring man is sweet, whether he eat little or much: but the abundance of the rich will not suffer him to sleep.



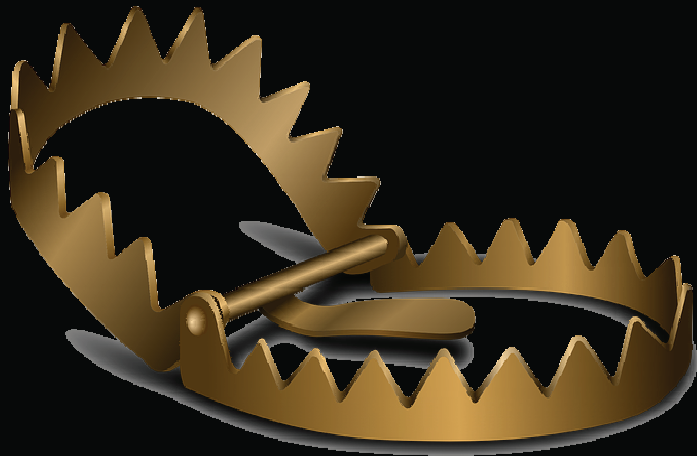
#3 Disquieting

- Sleep is the ultimate rest.
 - Psalms 127:2 It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep.
- Riches have an insomnia effect.
- Worldly riches can be burdensome and disquieting, especially for those whose hearts are inordinately set on money.
- Do you know of rich and famous people who have to take drugs to sleep?

Ecc 5:13 There is a sore evil which I have seen under the sun, namely, riches kept for the owners thereof to their hurt. (14) But those riches perish by evil travail: and he begetteth a son, and there is nothing in his hand.

- The practice of hoarding riches is so bad that it is classified as “sore evil” or wicked.
- “Riches kept” – In some Asian cultures, the current generation is extremely driven to ensure the prosperity of the next generation.
- The dissatisfaction of riches drives them to want more and compels them in the way of fast, risky, and illegal money.
- The greedy misconduct of the hoarders costs them everything, and they are left with nothing to pass on to their heirs.

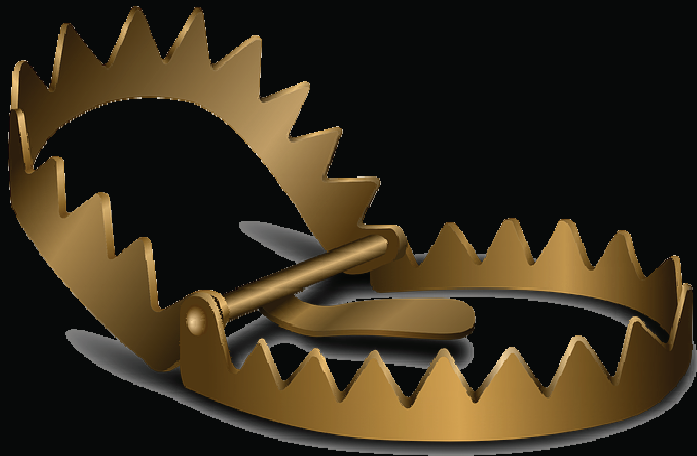
#4 Disintegrating



• *Proverbs 13:11 Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labour shall increase.*

Ecc 5:15 As he came forth of his mother's womb, naked shall he return to go as he came, and shall take nothing of his labour, which he may carry away in his hand.

#5 Displacing

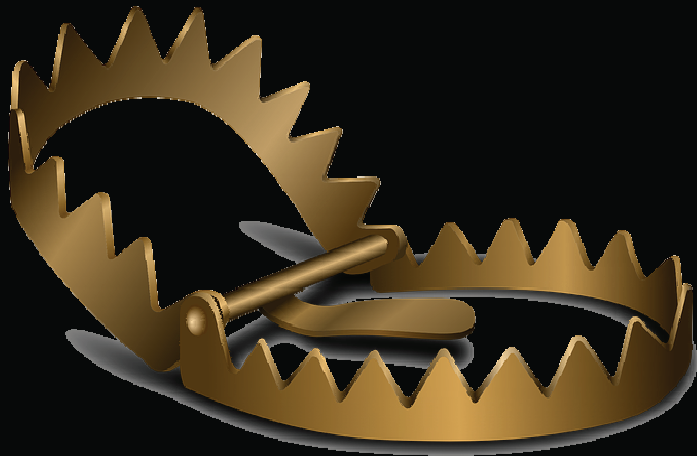


- A financial disaster is an unbearable blow to many money hoarders. Some would choose to end their lives.
- Even if financial disaster does not take its toll on money hoarders, death eventually will. Worldly riches have a term limit.
- IF YOUR WEALTH IS ALL YOU ARE WORTH, YOU ARE WORTH NOTHING AFTER YOUR LAST BREATH.
- *Psalms 49:17 For when he dieth he shall carry nothing away: his glory shall not descend after him.*

Ecc 5:16 And this also is a sore evil, that in all points as he came, so shall he go: and what profit hath he that hath laboured for the wind? (17) All his days also he eateth in darkness, and he hath much sorrow and wrath with his sickness.

#5 Displacing

- This trap is “sore evil” or wicked because people can spend their entire life hoarding riches that do not satisfy and end up losing their soul.
- Hoarders are so focused on raising an estate that they kill themselves with labor.
- *Mark 8:36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?*



The Vanity of Wealth

What's in it for extreme hoarders of riches?

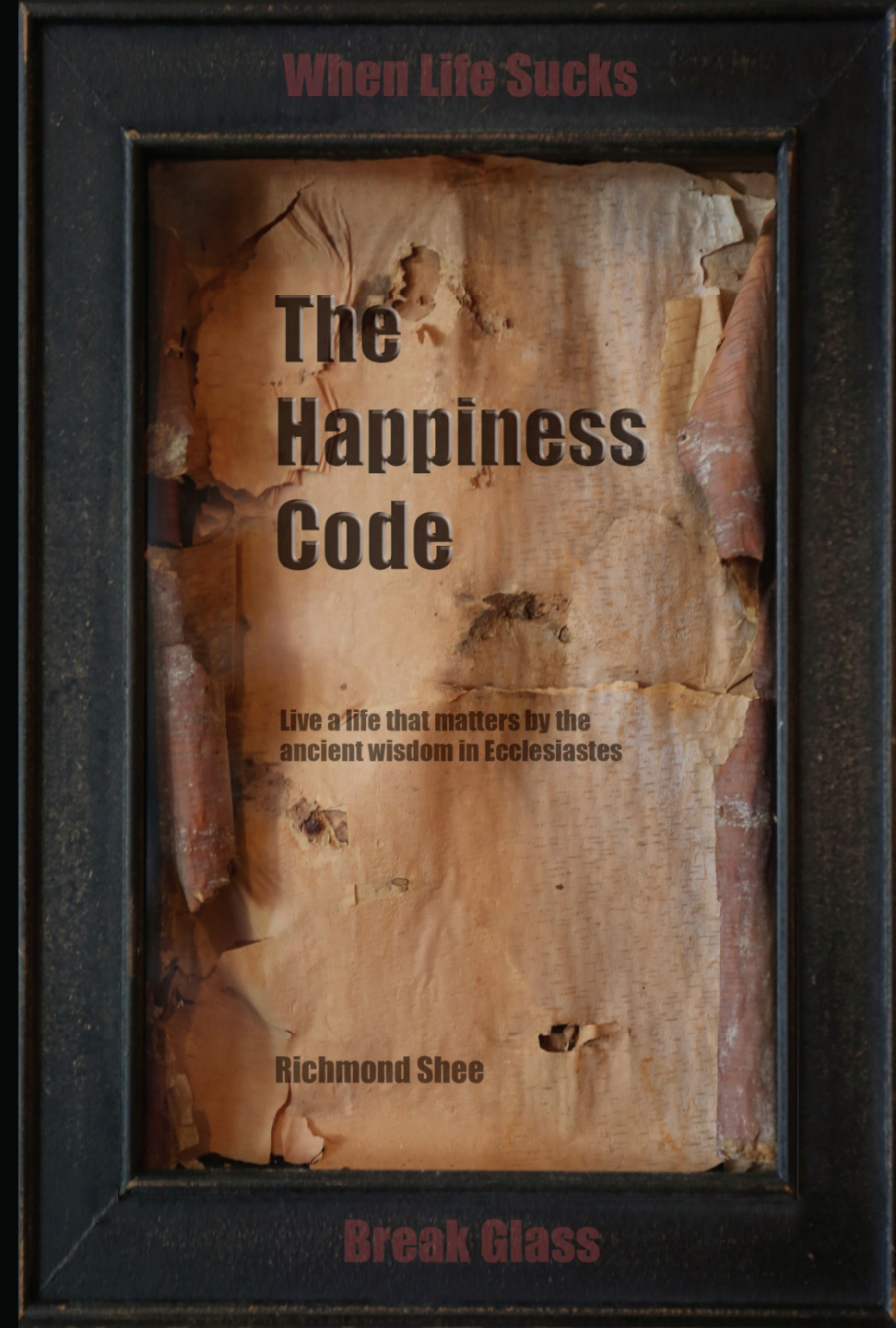
	Verse	Trap
Unsatisfied with riches	10	Dissatisfaction
Unable to find in their heart to consume their wealth	11	Disappearing
Unable to sleep	12	Disquieting
Unable to pass on the wealth	13-14	Disintegrating *
Unable to take their wealth with them in death	15	Displacing *

* Evil

The Happiness Code

Vanity of Wealth Without Use

Ecclesiastes 5:18 – 6:12



Ecc 5:18 Behold that which I have seen: it is good and comely for one to eat and to drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labour that he taketh under the sun all the days of his life, which God giveth him: for it is his portion. (19) Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour; this is the gift of God. (20) For he shall not much remember the days of his life; because God answereth him in the joy of his heart.



- God blesses certain self-serving hoarders with wealth and gives them the “power to eat” (capacity to enjoy).
- Since there is no happiness in hoarding riches, the best course for self-serving people is to eat, drink, be merry.
- Let them acknowledge that this is a gift of God and that God is good.

Ecc 6:1 There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, and it is common among men: (2) A man to whom God hath given riches, wealth, and honour, so that he wanteth nothing for his soul of all that he desireth, yet God giveth him not power to eat thereof, but a stranger eateth it: this is vanity, and it is an evil disease.

The Panama Papers is the largest financial data leak in history. It covers nearly 40 years, from the late 1970s through the end of 2015.

2.6TB

of data from Mossack
Fonseca's database



11.5M

documents
exposed



214,488

offshore accounts revealed
across 200+ countries



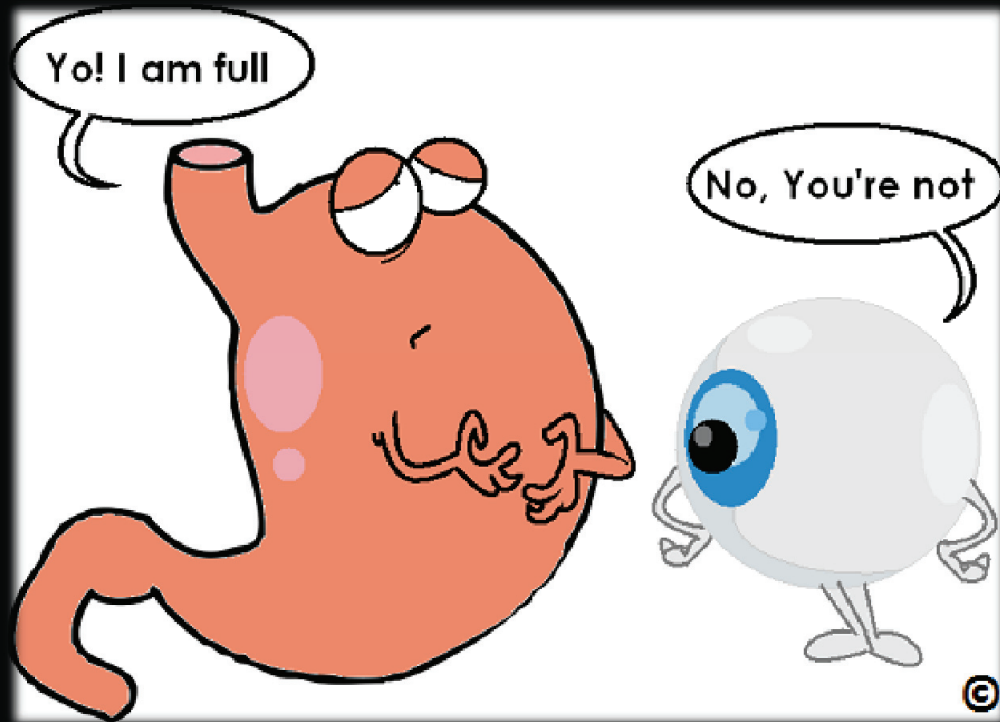
DESIGNED BY STINSON

- God blesses this group of hoarders, but gives the “power to eat” to strangers.
- “Welcome to the biggest global corruption scandal in history. It's a data dump bigger than Wikileaks. An enormous trove of 11.5 million documents from a law firm in Panama, Mossack Fonseca, shows an unprecedented pattern of global corruption that goes back 40 years.” -- USA Today

Ecc 6:3 If a man beget an hundred children, and live many years, so that the days of his years be many, and his soul be not filled with good, and also that he have no burial; I say, that an untimely birth is better than he. (4) For he cometh in with vanity, and departeth in darkness, and his name shall be covered with darkness. (5) Moreover he hath not seen the sun, nor known any thing: this hath more rest than the other. (6) Yea, though he live a thousand years twice told, yet hath he seen no good: do not all go to one place?

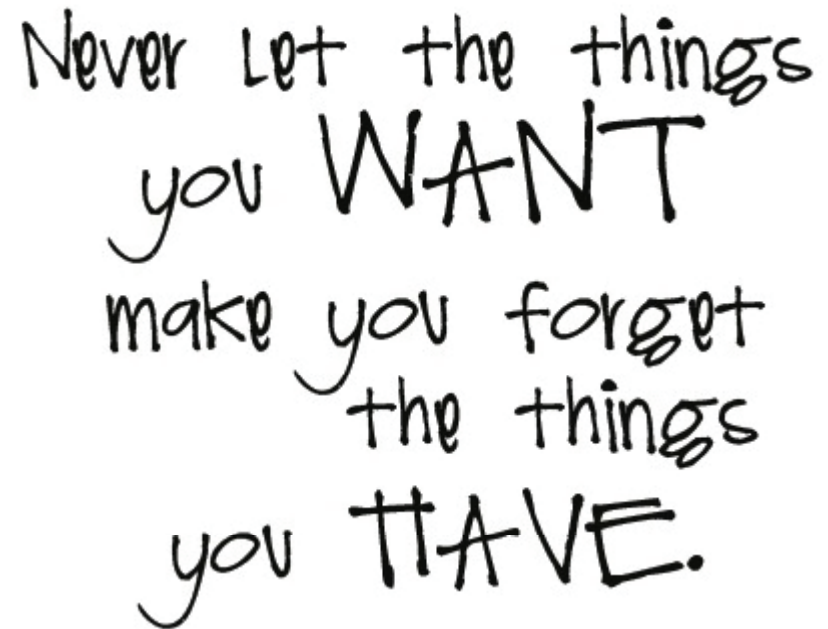


Ecc 6:7 All the labour of man is for his mouth, and yet the appetite is not filled. (8)
For what hath the wise more than the fool? what hath the poor, that knoweth to
walk before the living?



- Yet more reasons why it is vanity and folly to hoard riches and expect happiness from it.
- Worldly riches only gratify the physical body.
 - What difference does it make if a rich person eats caviar and a poor person eats chicken feet?
- The wise is no better than the fool.
 - The fool gets as much pleasure in stuffing his face regardless of what he eats.
- The rich is no better than the poor.
 - The poor also have food, clothing, and shelter.

Ecc 6:9 Better is the sight of the eyes than the wandering of the desire: this is also vanity and vexation of spirit.



Never let the things
you WANT
make you forget
the things
you HAVE.

- We would be happier to be content and enjoy what we presently have than to let our desire wander and covet things we don't have.
- The world says, "Gain is godliness."
- God says, "Godliness with contentment is great gain."
- The wandering of desire creates discontentment and vexes the spirit.

Ecc 6:10 That which hath been is named already, and it is known that it is man: neither may he contend with him that is mightier than he. (11) Seeing there be many things that increase vanity, what is man the better? (12) For who knoweth what is good for man in this life, all the days of his vain life which he spendeth as a shadow? for who can tell a man what shall be after him under the sun?



- All the efforts of riches cannot impart lasting happiness because the workers are the sons of Adam with known traits—fallen, sinful, vile, and wretched.
- Humans, in their best state, are vanity and worth less than nothing.
Isaiah 40:17 All nations before him are as nothing; and they are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity.

You have been illuminated to these truths:

- The five traps of riches are:
 - Dissatisfaction, Disappearing, Disquieting, Disintegrating, Displacing.
- If my wealth is all I am worth, I am worth less than nothing after my last breath. Isaiah 40:17.
- If I am all about hoarding riches, the fate of a miscarried fetus is better than mine.
- If this extreme case of covetousness for worldly riches does not produce happiness, there is no hope for less enthusiastic hopefuls.
- Please submit your questions and feedback to TheHappinessCode@yahoo.com