

what's the point?



Pastor Clay Smith

Stop Hating Your Job

Ecclesiastes 2:18-26

What's the Point?

Work is where _____ and
_____ collide.

Contemplating Frustration

1. Your success is _____ (v. 18-19)
2. You _____ the end result (v. 20-21)
3. Your work creates _____ (v. 22-23)

Creating Fulfillment

1. Receive your work as a _____ (v. 24-25)
2. Redefine _____ (v. 26)
3. Rebalance your _____
4. Redefine your _____

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Discussion Questions

1. What exactly does the Teacher "hate" in verses 18-19, and why? Look closely at the repeated reasons he gives (inheritance, uncertainty of the successor, loss of control). What does this reveal about his view of work and legacy?
2. In verses 20-23, how does the passage describe the emotional cost of work? List the words or phrases tied to your inner life (heart, pain, grief, sleeplessness). What picture of work is being painted here beyond just physical labor?
3. Verses 24-26 introduce a shift. What changes in tone or theology, and what stays the same? What does the Teacher not say about work here (e.g., quitting, withdrawing)? What does he say about God's role in enjoyment?
4. Where do you most resonate with the frustration described in verses 18-23? Is it the fear of someone undoing your work, the sense of futility, the mental exhaustion, or something else? Why does that hit close to home?
5. What would it look like for you to receive your work "as a gift from God" rather than a source of ultimate meaning (v. 24)? How might that change your attitude toward success, failure, recognition, or ambition this week?
6. Verse 26 contrasts two ways of living and striving to control outcomes versus trusting God with joy. Which are you currently living in, and how can the group pray for a shift? Be specific - where is God inviting you to loosen your grip?