
Date: August 16, 2026 **Message:** Working for Meaning

Series: This is My Story **Scripture:** Ecclesiastes 1:1-3, 13-14; 2:17-26

1. Work in _____

2. Work as _____

3. Work as _____

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

Ecclesiastes 1:1-3, 13-14; 2:17-26

1. Why do people around you work? At a deep, heart level, what is their reason for work?
2. If you have to choose one, do you identify more with the first (cf. vv. 22-23) or the second (vv. 18-19) way of viewing work?
3. Read Ecclesiastes 1:12-18; 2:1-16; 4:1-16; and 5:8-20. What are the experiments that the Preacher pursues to see if they will give meaning? Which one best captures the pursuits in your non-Christian acquaintances and friends? Which best captures your pursuits?
4. Read the poem at the beginning of the book, Ecclesiastes 1:3-11. What is the main theme that he sees in the operation of the earth? What does he take from this for his own life?
5. Notice how the Preacher seems to say things that are in tension with each other in 2:17-26, like, "everything is meaningless" and "there is nothing better for man to eat..." What in 2:17-26 gives a clue as to why these statements are actually compatible?