



THIS IS *My Story*

“Working for Meaning”
by Pastor Joshua Smith

FRITZ
MANDI
DUSTIN
DON
KAY
PAUL
JOSH
BILL
JOSHUA

A tropical sunset scene with palm trees and a colorful sky. The sky transitions from a deep purple on the left to a bright yellow on the right, with soft, wispy clouds. The silhouettes of several palm trees are visible against the lower part of the sky.

THIS IS
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Ecclesiastes 1:1-3, 13-14 (NIV)

¹ The words of the Teacher,
son of David, king in Jerusalem:

² “Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher.
“Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.”

Ecclesiastes 1:1-3, 13-14 (NIV)

³ What do people gain from all their labors
at which they toil under the sun?

Ecclesiastes 1:1-3, 13-14 (NIV)

¹³ I applied my mind to study and to explore
by wisdom all that is done under the heavens.
What a heavy burden God has laid on mankind!

Ecclesiastes 1:1-3, 13-14 (NIV)

¹⁴ I have seen all the things that are done
under the sun; all of them are meaningless,
a chasing after the wind.

Ecclesiastes 2:17-26 (NIV)

¹⁷ So I hated life, because the work that is done under the sun was grievous to me. All of it is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

Ecclesiastes 2:17-26 (NIV)

¹⁸ I hated all the things I had toiled for under the sun, because I must leave them to the one who comes after me.

Ecclesiastes 2:17-26 (NIV)

¹⁹ And who knows whether that person will be wise or foolish? Yet they will have control over all the fruit of my toil into which I have poured my effort and skill under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 2:17-26 (NIV)

This too is meaningless.

²⁰ So my heart began to despair
over all my toilsome labor under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 2:17-26 (NIV)

²¹ For a person may labor with wisdom, knowledge and skill, and then they must leave all they own to another who has not toiled for it. This too is meaningless and a great misfortune.

Ecclesiastes 2:17-26 (NIV)

²² What do people get for all the toil
and anxious striving with which
they labor under the sun?

Ecclesiastes 2:17-26 (NIV)

²³ All their days their work is grief and pain;
even at night their minds do not rest.
This too is meaningless.

Ecclesiastes 2:17-26 (NIV)

²⁴ A person can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in their own toil. This too, I see, is from the hand of God, ²⁵ for without him, who can eat or find enjoyment?

Ecclesiastes 2:17-26 (NIV)

²⁶ To the person who pleases him, God gives wisdom, knowledge and happiness, but to the sinner he gives the task of gathering and storing up wealth to hand it over to the one who pleases God.

Ecclesiastes 2:17-26 (NIV)

This too is meaningless,
a chasing after the wind.

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Work in itself

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Work as **legacy**

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Work as **gift**

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