

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

Finding Fulfillment in our Work

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor
March 19, 2023



- **We often look to our work for Significance.**
- **We often look to our work for Security.**
- **We often look to our work for Satisfaction.**

Why does work leave us unfulfilled & what can satisfy our souls?

Genesis 3:17-19 (NLT) And to the man [God] said, “Since you listened to your wife and ate from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat, the ground is cursed because of you. All your life you will struggle to scratch a living from it. ¹⁸ It will grow thorns and thistles for you, though you will eat of its grains. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow will you have food to eat until you return to the ground from which you were made. For you were made from dust, and to dust you will return.”

- **Work can feel fruitless.**
- **Work can feel pointless.**

Ecclesiastes 2:17 (NLT) “So I came to hate life because everything done here under the sun is so troubling. Everything is meaningless—like chasing the wind.”

Ecclesiastes 2:18-23 (NLT) “I came to hate all my hard work here on earth, for I must leave to others everything I have earned. ¹⁹ And who can tell whether my successors will be wise or foolish? Yet they will control everything I have gained by my skill and hard work under the sun. How meaningless!²⁰ So I gave up in despair, questioning the value of all my hard work in this world. ²¹ Some people work wisely with knowledge and skill, then must leave the fruit of their efforts to someone who hasn't worked for it. This, too, is meaningless, a great tragedy. ²² So what do people get in this life for all their hard work and anxiety? ²³ Their days of labour are filled with pain and grief; even at night their minds cannot rest. It is all meaningless.”

*Turning and turning in the widening gyre,
The falcon cannot hear the falconer;
Things fall apart; the center cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world. W.B. Yeats “The Second Coming”*

Matthew 11:28-30 (NLT) Then Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.²⁹ Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.”

Big Idea: Rest in the saving work of Jesus to find rest for your soul.

Matthew 11:28-30 (MSG) “Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.”

Before him stood the Tree, his Tree, finished. It was... alive, its leaves opening, its branches growing and bending in the wind that Niggle had so often felt or guessed, and had so often failed to catch. He gazed at the Tree, and slowly he lifted his arms and opened them wide. “It's a gift!” he said. He was referring to his art, and also to the result; but he was using the word quite literally. He went on looking at the Tree. All the leaves he had ever laboured at were there, as he had imagined them rather than as he had made them; and there were others that had only budded in his mind, and many that might have budded, if only he had had time. A Leaf by Niggle J.R.R. Tolkien

Philippians 1:6 (AMP) “I am convinced and confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you (*and through you*) will [continue to] perfect and complete it until the day of Christ Jesus [the time of His return].”



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

Finding Fulfillment in our Work
#3 of 3 - March 26, 2023

- 1) Last week we looked at work as an act of love. How did your action step go? In what ways have you been able to understand and approach your work from this perspective?
- 2) Read Genesis 3:17-19, Ecc. 2:17, 3:18-23. What is the **Context** for these passages? Where is this taking place in the book as a whole (what comes before or after)? Who is the writer and who are the recipients? Where does it fit in the Bible? What's the theme of this chapter, or passage? What's the historical and cultural context?
- 3) **Observation:** What "jumps out" in these passages? What interesting details do you observe? What questions come up about the passages? What is the major theme in the passages?
- 4) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What meaning is inferred in this passage for us and what does this tell us about the work we do? In what ways does work feel fruitless and pointless? Why is this the case?
- 5) In what ways do we often look to our work for significance, security, and satisfaction? Why does work fail to give us these things ultimately?
- 6) Read Matthew 11:28-30. What is Jesus offering us? How does this provide the significance, security and satisfaction we truly desire?
- 7) **Application:** How is God speaking to you through this study? (Take some time for Listening Prayer). What action step do you need to take to "rest" in the saving work of Jesus to find rest for your soul?



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