

Main Point: By ceasing to strive for self-defined meaning and instead pursue **faithfulness**, we find **freedom** and **peace** in trusting that **God transforms** our **ordinary acts of obedience and love into meaningful/purposeful instruments of redemption**.

Introduction: The Futility of Chasing Meaning: Striving for meaning **apart from God**, or **using him** as a **means to meaning** is futile. Instead, the teacher of Ecclesiastes urges us to **find joy in God HIMSELF through the work that he has allotted to us**.

Ruth's Faithfulness in Humble Service (2:8-10, 13-17):

- *If your pursuit of greater meaning and purpose is so great that you loathe (or neglect) the ordinary things in front of you - that must be done - you will not be faithful. If you are not faithful to the things in front of you with joyful faithfulness, you will never realize meaning or purpose!* (Eccl 11:4)

Boaz's Faithfulness in Generous Stewardship (Ruth 2:11-12, 14-16)

- Thru Boaz we learn we can stop striving for significance through accumulation, rather faithfulness with what God has entrusted to us. Be generous and watch The LORD breath meaning into it.

The LORD's Faithfulness in Sovereign Providence (Ruth 2:12, 19-22)

- Ruth and Boaz didn't see the full scope of God's plan "*they couldn't find out what God had done from beginning to end*", yet their faithfulness allowed them to participate in it. (Eccl 3:10-13)

Application: God has given us daily tasks to engage purposefully, and in doing so, we **can find joy and encounter His presence**, and **he can breathe meaning and purpose** into our faithfulness and make it part of his redemptive plan!

1: Recognize Your Tasks as God-Given

- **Reflection:** Consider the tasks you face today—whether mundane (e.g., washing dishes, answering emails) or significant (e.g., leading a project, caring for family). The verse teaches that these are part of the "business" or "lot" God has given/assigned to you.

2: Seek Beauty in the Ordinary

- **Reflection:** The passage says God "*has made everything beautiful in its time*." Even routine or challenging tasks hold divine purpose when viewed through the lens of faith.

3: Receive Joy and Pleasure as God's Gift

- **Reflection:** The verse encourages us to "be joyful and do good" and to "take pleasure in all [our] toil." Joy is not just a feeling but a choice to see our work as part of God's redemptive plan.

4: Connect Daily Faithfulness to Eternal Purpose

- **Reflection:** God has placed "eternity in man's heart," suggesting our daily tasks are part of a larger divine story. Faithful engagement with our work aligns us with God's redemptive purposes.