

NOTES:

Idle Work & Idol Work

Randy Frazee | Work Matters | Oct. 4-5, 2014

Key Scripture: Ecclesiastes 4:4-12, 5:10-17, 5:18-20, The Message

⁴ Then I observed all the work and ambition motivated by envy. What a waste! Smoke. And spitting into the wind.

⁵ The fool sits back and takes it easy,
His sloth is slow suicide.

⁶ One handful of peaceful repose
Is better than two fistfuls of worried work—
More spitting into the wind.

⁷⁻⁸ I turned my head and saw yet another wisp of smoke on its way to nothingness: a solitary person, completely alone—no children, no family, no friends—yet working obsessively late into the night, compulsively greedy for more and more, never bothering to ask, “Why am I working like a dog, never having any fun? And who cares?” More smoke. A bad business.

⁹⁻¹⁰ It's better to have a partner than go it alone.

Share the work, share the wealth.
And if one falls down, the other helps,
But if there's no one to help, tough!

¹¹ Two in a bed warm each other.
Alone, you shiver all night.

¹² By yourself you're unprotected.
With a friend you can face the worst.
Can you round up a third?
A three-stranded rope isn't easily snapped.

¹⁰ The one who loves money is never satisfied with money,
Nor the one who loves wealth with big profits. More smoke.

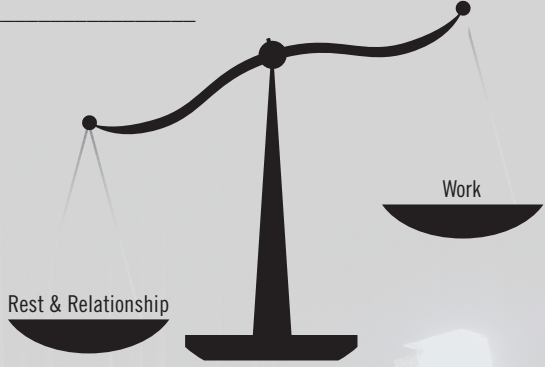
¹¹ The more loot you get, the more looters show up.
And what fun is that—to be robbed in broad daylight?

¹² Hard and honest work earns a good night's sleep,
Whether supper is beans or steak.
But a rich man's belly gives him insomnia.

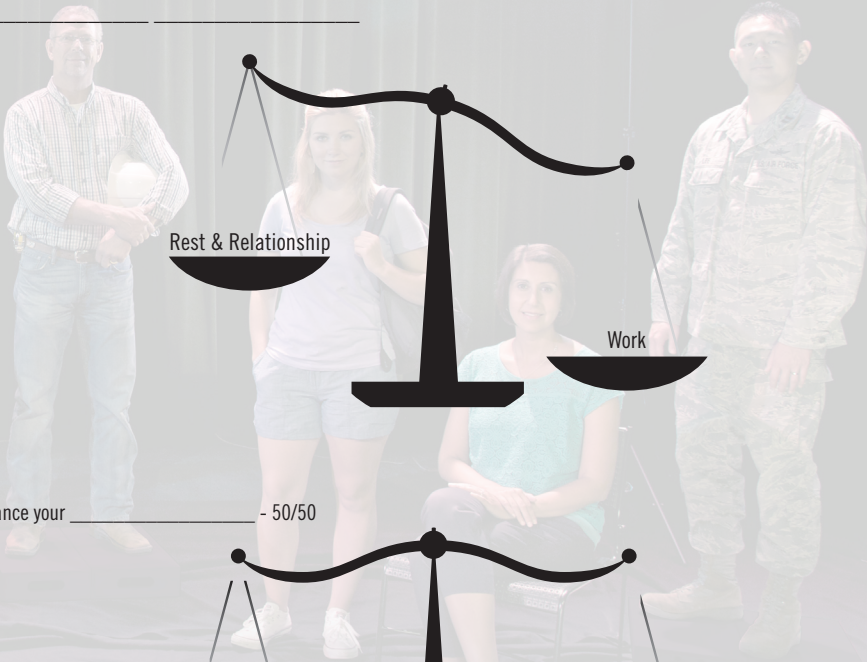
¹³⁻¹⁷ Here's a piece of bad luck I've seen happen:
A man hoards far more wealth than is good for him
And then loses it all in a bad business deal.
He fathered a child but hasn't a cent left to give him.
He arrived naked from the womb of his mother;
He'll leave in the same condition—with nothing.
This is bad luck, for sure—naked he came, naked he went.
So what was the point of working for a salary of smoke?
All for a miserable life spent in the dark?

¹⁸⁻²⁰ After looking at the way things are on this earth, here's what I've decided is the best way to live: Take care of yourself, have a good time, and make the most of whatever job you have for as long as God gives you life. And that's about it. That's the human lot. Yes, we should make the most of what God gives, both the bounty and the capacity to enjoy it, accepting what's given and delighting in the work. It's God's gift! God deals out joy in the present, the now. It's useless to brood over how long we might live.

1. _____



2. _____



3. Balance your _____ - 50/50

