

Forrest Gump



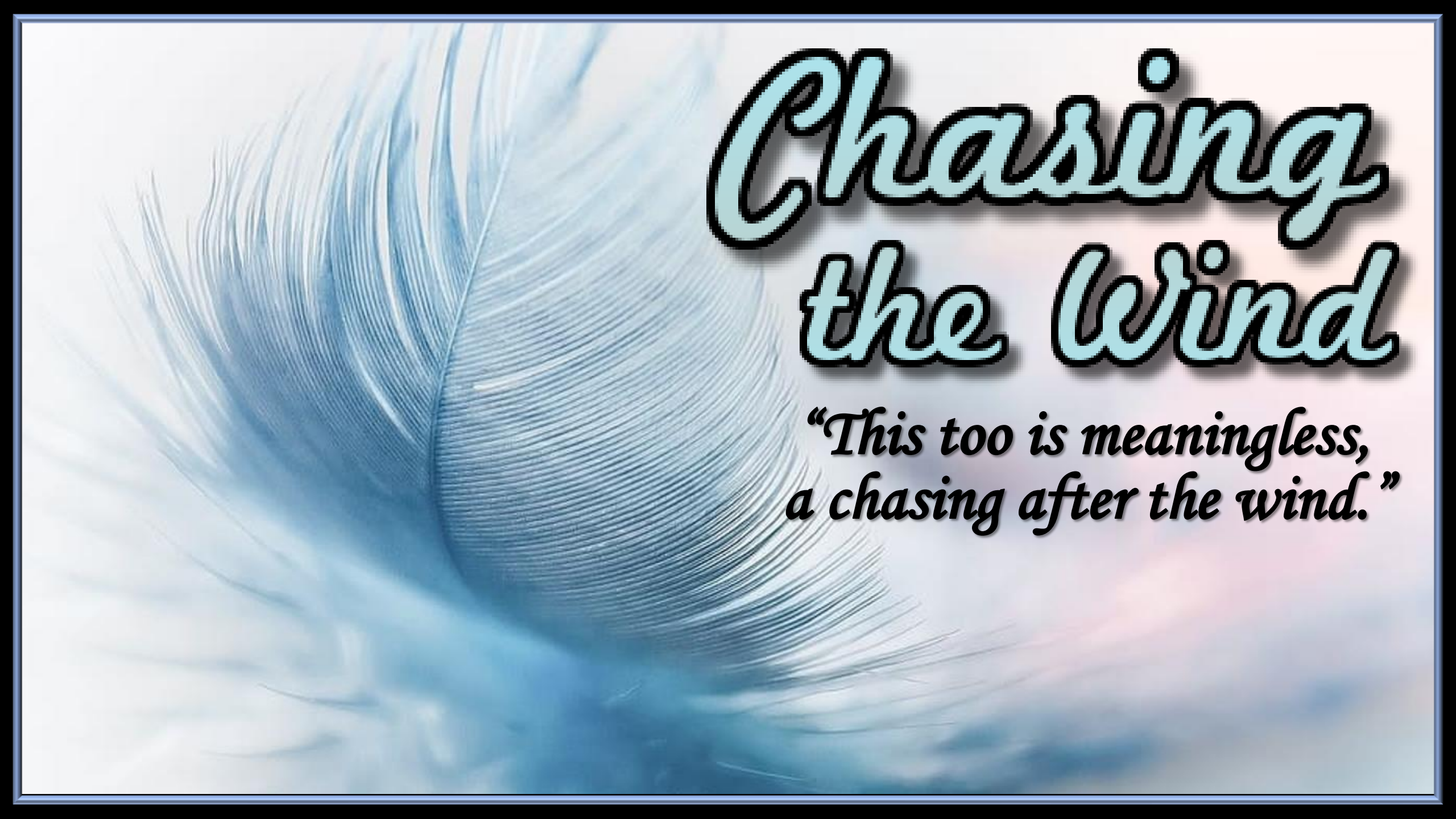
Meaningful



What is the meaning of life?

What makes your life meaningful?

What is the one thing in your life that if it were gone would leave your life meaningless?



Chasing the Wind

*“This too is meaningless,
a chasing after the wind.”*



*The Pursuit
of Pleasure*
Ecclesiastes 2:1-9

Pleasure



A feeling of happy satisfaction and enjoyment.

Enjoyment and entertainment, contrasted with things done out of necessity

An event or activity from which one derives enjoyment

Sensual gratification

Pleasure



We worship a serious God

God created you with the ability to experience pleasure

He also put in place or in motion all the things that we derive pleasure from

God is not anti-pleasure

Pleasure



When our teacher Solomon decided to search for the meaning of life, I am not at all surprised that he started with pleasure

After all it is a really fun place to start

It feels really good

And it is also very addictive

Pleasure Activities



Laughter

Celebrating (Party!)

Projects (Hobbies)

Serve Me

Stuff (Collector)

Art and Sex

I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure My heart took delight in all my labor, and this was the reward for all my toil.

v. 10

The Results



Yet when I surveyed all that, my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun.

v. 11

Irony of it All



Here is a man that can have anything and everything he wants -- but he runs out of things to want

He has chased pleasure to the point that now he would rather die than do it again

He would rather hear an honest cry than another fake laugh

He now desires an honest conversation instead of another meaningless song

A Problematic Pursuit



We Want

To be entertained

To be served

To be focused on (Comfortable)

When we were looking at Solomon's pleasure cruise did you pay attention to the word, he used the most?



Dealing with the I's



"I" allowed Solomon to think he was in control of his pleasure

I will Test

I Wanted

I Said

I Understood

Dealing with the I's



"I" allows Solomon to take all the credit

I Built

I Made

The fact he acknowledges nobody but himself means he is putting the focus on him

Dealing with the I's



"I" focuses on the physical

I also Owned More

I Amassed

This is not about having money or things

This is about hoarding for status

Dealing with the I's



"I" allows us to use people

I Bought I Amassed

He is talking people here, not cows or castles

**The only people Solomon thought about were
there to either **Serve Him, Sing to Him,
or Service Him****

The Pleasure Trap



Pleasure indulges self

**The more I indulge self the more
selfish I become**

**Until I get to the point that
nobody matters but **ME****

Blinded by Pleasure



He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:8

Did you notice God is nowhere to be found on Solomon's pleasure island?

It is about what I think, I believe, I want

Forget about what God says as long as "I" am pleased

A large, detailed blue feather is the central focus on the left side of the image. The background is a soft, out-of-focus sunset or sunrise with warm orange and pink tones. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

*Life of Pleasure
Death of Sorrows*

Isaiah 5:11-13