“NOTHING VENTURED- NOTHING GAINED “
Ecc 11:1-6
* The biggest room in the world is? Biltmore….Smithsonian
No--- the biggest room in the world is…. room for improvement!!
There’s a sign along the Alaskan Highway that reads, "Choose your rut carefully, you’ll be in it for the next 500 miles."

A lot of folks live their lives like that sign. Especially the spiritual dimension of their lives. They accept boredom as if somehow that makes them more spiritual.
Æ “A rut is just a grave with both ends kicked out!”
Churches don’t start off in a rut, but most church’s end up in one!

But life is not meant to be monotonous! It is mean to be momentous!
aLife is meant to be an adventure!
Take the INITIATIVE to be IMAGINATIVE!
When did you last do something bold? When did you last color outside the lines, refusing to play it safe?

Solomon encourages his READERS to be RISK takers … to be bold! Go for it!
* “Carpe Diem” —Seize the day!
Eph 5:15-16 “See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time because the days are evil”

* You can’t live on just Bread AND water—you should cast your bread ON the water! *
Æ Investment always precedes dividends. The way to save your life is to lose it! (Matt. 16:25)

I. -THE PLAN REVEALED TO US
Some things seem senseless until sensibly seen. —Josh 6
Interpretation must precede application or confirmation.
You’ve gotta know what to know before you can go where you’ve gotta go.
Most pass this verse without a second glance, and if perchance they do glance, they scratch their head, wrinkle their brow and move on quickly never taking the time to dig deeper and hear what God is saying.
We can better understand this phrase if we know the background of this passage.
* Only time I remember casting bread on the waters was to feed the Carp or the fish at the Dock (ducks)

In the middle east, some of the rivers would overflow their banks and when this happen, men would get into their boats and go out on the waters, and cast their seed upon them.
The seed would sink to the bottom, and after the water receded , they would leave a rich soil covering the seed which later would lead to a great harvest of grain.
(cf. Isaiah 32:20, "Blessed are ye that sow beside all waters...").
A. THE PERFORMANCE “cast”
The word cast means to give, to let go, not forced out of our hand. -God loves a cheerful giver.
a Dad fishing-me and Travis.
Dad- whooooooosh….bloop!
Us- Boop! Clickety clickety Boop! Clickety clickety Boop! Clickety clickety
Guess who caught the fish? He knew how to cast!!! How and where!
If you are ever gonna get anything FROM God you need to give everything to GOD!
B. THE PROVISION “bread” Vs. 2
(v. 6). Picture of sowing God’s Word.
Be diligent and sow the seed all day long. ("in the morning" –“in the evening”). Results are left to the Lord of the harvest.

C. THE PLACE “waters”
àYour water may be at Work, Wal-Mart or Windso, but wherever it is—it is!
The "waters" are multitudes of people (Rev. 17:15).
We must give the "bread" out to as many people as possible.

D. THE PROCESS
à The MORE you venture ……the MORE you gain!!
1-We Cast Our Bread Through Our Works:
* I have 5 kids …on purpose! Don’t tell ME I don’t practice what I preach!!
We took that “be fruitful and MULTIPLY” literal!
“Well nowadays you cant afford five young uns”
“Yeah you’re right…when my Grandma had 7 everybody had plenty of money back then………wait a minute…..”
* Let’s be honest---if you put it on paper--you can’t afford ONE!
2-We Cast Our Bread Through Our Witness
Some Christians are like the Arctic River, frozen over at the mouth -- they don’t say anything.
Gotta be ready-prepared to speak…..
* "May I take your order?" the waiter asked. "Yes, how do you prepare your chickens?"
"Nothing special, sir," he replied. "We just tell them straight out that they're going to die."
3-We Cast Our Bread Through Our Wealth:
à What do we call money? …“bread”!
Still refer to someone as the primary bread winner
* The number 7 is the biblical number of completion. You would be doing what was expected of you to give a portion of your goods to seven people. But Solomon says - try something radical for God - give to the eighth person also! Take the high risk! Go ahead, "cast your bread upon the waters!" BE GENEROUS!

WE ARE NOT RICH BECAUSE OF WHAT WE HAVE, WE ARE RICH BECAUSE OF WHAT WE GIVE!
Don’t put your bread in a deep-freeze—it will freezer burn; don't seal your bread in a plastic bag—it will get moldy.
We do not know what is going to happen or when some tragedy will strike ( not if) therefore, be generous now ,
Proverbs 19:17, "He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again."
Proverbs 11:24-25, "There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty. The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself."
Æ “When it comes to giving, some people will stop at nothing." God blesses giving!
àHow many of you pay taxes? All of us—unless you are in the Obama administration.!
Why do you? “Because we have to.” No you don’t! You can go to jail, but you don’t have to! You wont die.
We give out of fear of Govt. Not SUPPOSED to be that way—original purpose was to help others---We pay our taxes because we fear the govt but we don’t tithe because……we don’t fear God!
6 out of 10 Christians fear Government more than God!
à Don’t pay bills and see if you have enough to tithe—you WONT!
…Pay tithe and see if you have enough—you WILL!
The hyper dispensationalist says “OT only!”! No-NT—it was BEFORE and AFTER the law! God doesn’t have to rewrite the whole Bible for it to apply!

II.- THE PROMISED REWARD FOR US ............ verse 2-6
* Back in 80’s. Old Hillbilly inherited $ told to invest in stock market. Said “Okay..lookee here..put it here in Yahoo- I like that drink!”
“shall find it” A return on your investment!
I like what one old time preacher said about this verse, he said, your bread will come back buttered!!!

Pray carefully! Plan diligently! Trust faithfully!

ÆFaith HONORS GOD ….and GOD HONORS FAITH!!!

aWhere there is no RISK there is no REWARD!

DIVERSIFY!!! Calculated risks are part of life!

We know not vs. 2, 5 & 6 “thou knowest not” ….what may happen upon life’s seas!

Some people plan their lives around weather forecasts!

We can't control the weather, …….andt we also can’t let the weather controls us!!

For some, the wind is never right -there’s always an excuse to wait for a better time -but there’s never a better time than this one!

Pay day is coming “after many days” God almighty keeps a record in glory.

Gal 6 “whatsoever soweth” “… in due season, we will reap if we faint not.”

Æ B/c we don't know what is going to happen, we must walk by faith. It is a "work of faith" (1 Thess. 1:3).

You can’t await ideal conditions!

….listen close…..there are no ideal conditions!!

à Don’t let the POSSIBILITY of PROBLEMS PARYLYZE you!

The Paralysis of analysis!

Don’t worry that you may fail if you try.

Failure IS only certain if you don’t try!

III.- THE PATIENCE REQUIRED OF US

Æ We live in days of INSTANT GRATIFICATION

Computers and cell phones frustrate us when they take SECONDS!!!

A- the Endurance that is involved in it: "Many Days"

* Boy throw a temper tantrum---

Then go pick you a weed “Love you Mama” worth it!

Prov 17 “when he is OLD”

B- the Encouragement : "Shall find it"

* Virgil Edward’s brother-prayed 50yrs.

Don’t wait for the weather to change. Don’t wait for the kids to grow up. Don’t wait for your husband or your wife. Don’t wait until you have spare time or more money or stronger health or a better job or a bigger house. Don’t wait for conditions to be perfect. Today is the day..& never quit.

What are you waiting for?

If you’re gonna go somewhere, you gotta start sometime!

The reward is worth the risk!!

No cost is too great a price to pay for the cause of Christ!

"He that loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will find it!” (Mark 8:35)

Hope is in the harvest!

When I die I don’t want folks to say “poor fella, didn’t have nothing” I’ll just be getting it!!!

Worth every mile!

The MORE you venture ……the MORE you gain!!

Psalm 126:5-6, "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."

“Casting all your cares upon Him for He careth for you”

KJV | Pastor John M. Keeter

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2 Cor 5:17 “Therefore if any man be in Christ he is a NEW CREATURE: old things are past away; behold, all things are become new.”