

**Boston College**  
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY CONTINUING EDUCATION  
Encore Access

**Transcript Segment, Part 3**  
**“Toward a Meaningful Life”**

**Presented by Theresa A. O’Keefe, PhD**

So then the bigger question then becomes, how do you navigate towards a meaningful life? How do you get there? This is a tricky thing. What you're trying to teach basically is how you engage people in loving in the world. How do you get them to believe that that's the thing to do, when so much around them speaks a contrary story? So much around us says that really, what's most important is get what you can for yourself, or get what you can for at least the people you like, right? But not risk loving, especially don't risk loving people you don't like.

Certainly don't risk loving people who you disagree with. Certainly don't risk loving people who look different from you. And so it's very challenging to keep encouraging people to live and love, even to know that that's a thing to do.



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how to read what's going on. And so it becomes really essential in adolescence that you begin to have people who will take the time to listen to your own concerns and respond to them intelligently. Listen to your own ideas and give you feedback and encouragement. You need someone to help you interpret the world well.

Now the first thing you're interpreting is yourself. Am I worthwhile? Am I of any value? Am I anything? Does anybody care?

Interpreting ourselves and others along a horizon of love is careful work. It's grace-full work, meaning it's full of grace. It gives us the opportunity to give and to receive love.

Call to mind those people in your life, significant and minor, who helped you see the value



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So we have to think about, well, what are the sources of our stories? For me, it's Scripture,



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never not be your parent and you can never not be the child of your parent, and that conversation is always loaded with all sor

