



Part 4: Chasing a Life

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Pick a person... Ecclesiastes 4

Again I looked and saw all the oppression that was taking place under the sun:

I saw the tears of the oppressed—
and they have no comforter;
power was on the side of their
oppressors—
and they have no comforter.

² And I declared that the dead,
who had already died,
are happier than the living,
who are still alive.

³ But better than both
is the one who has never been born,
who has not seen the evil
that is done under the sun.

⁴ And I saw that all toil and all
achievement spring from one person's
envy of another. This too is meaningless, a
chasing after the wind.

⁵ Fools fold their hands
and ruin themselves.

⁶ Better one handful with tranquility
than two handfuls with toil
and chasing after the wind.

Person #1: Disillusioned and devastated

⁷ Again I saw something meaningless under
the sun:

⁸ There was a man all alone;
he had neither son nor brother.

There was no end to his toil,
yet his eyes were not content with his
wealth.

“For whom am I toiling,” he asked,
“and why am I depriving myself of
enjoyment?”

This too is meaningless—
a miserable business!

Person #2: Successful ...but alone (Proverbs 15:17)

...but dissatisfied

¹³ Better a poor but wise youth than an
old but foolish king who no longer knows
how to heed a warning. ¹⁴ The youth may
have come from prison to the kingship, or
he may have been born in poverty within
his kingdom. ¹⁵ I saw that all who lived and
walked under the sun followed the youth,
the king's successor. ¹⁶ There was no end to
all the people who were before them. But
those who came later were not pleased
with the successor. This too is meaningless,
a chasing after the wind.

Person #4: Popular but quickly forgotten

Connected but only on
the surface

⁹ Two are better than one,
because they have a good return for
their labor:

¹⁰ If either of them falls down,
one can help the other up.

But pity anyone who falls
and has no one to help them up.

¹¹ Also, if two lie down together, they will
keep warm.

But how can one keep warm alone?

¹² Though one may be overpowered,
two can defend themselves.

A cord of three strands is not quickly
broken.

Person #3: Connected ...and not alone

...and productive

...and known

...and protected

Small Group Questions

- 1) After last week's message (Eccl. 3), what season are you in right now?
- 2) Read Ecclesiastes 4 out loud. Where do you find God in Solomon's frustration?
- 3) We were all “someone” in high school — the athlete, the brain, the popular one, the class clown, etc.). Who were you in that season and how have you changed?
- 4) In what ways have you found connection in your life? How has connecting with other people allowed you to be in community, productive, known and protected?
- 5) Do you identify with any of the 4 people described in this message? If there's a life you've chased after, how have its benefits compared to its cost to obtain?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?