

A Grand Strand
Don Williams April 24, 2022

Ecclesiastes 1:1-2

The words of the Teacher, son of David, king in Jerusalem:

² "Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher. "Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless."

Ecclesiastes 4:7-12

"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!

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."

Ecclesiastes 4:8

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!

The Warning of "Vanity"

Genesis 2:18

"It is not good for the man to be alone."

The Benefits of COMMUNITY

Ecclesiastes 4:9

"Two are better than one..."

Proverbs 27:17

"As iron sharpens iron,
so one person sharpens another."

• **Productivity**

Ecclesiastes 4:9b

"because they have a good return for their labor:"

• **Stability**

Ecclesiastes 4:10

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.

"When you make a fool of yourself a friend doesn't make you feel like it is a permanent condition."

• **Intimacy**

Ecclesiastes 4:11

"Likewise, two people lying close together can keep each other warm. But how can one be warm alone?"

Ephesians 4:26

"In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry..."

• **Security**

Ecclesiastes 4:12a

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

Ecclesiastes 4:12b

"A cord of three strands is not quickly broken."

God gives us Security.

We need to give each other flexibility.

Colossians 3:13 (NLT)

"Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others."