

# CHASING THE WIND

## Part 4: Chasing a Life

May 25 & 26, 2019

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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.

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

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

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> Fools fold their hands  
and ruin themselves.

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

### **Person #1: Disillusioned and devastated**

<sup>7</sup> Again I saw something meaningless under the sun:

<sup>8</sup> 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**

<sup>13</sup> Better a poor but wise youth than an old but foolish king who no longer knows how to heed a warning. <sup>14</sup> The youth may have come from prison to the kingship, or he may have been born in poverty within his kingdom. <sup>15</sup> I saw that all who lived and walked under the sun followed the youth, the king's successor. <sup>16</sup> 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**

<sup>9</sup> Two are better than one,  
because they have a good return for their labor:  
<sup>10</sup> 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.  
<sup>11</sup> Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm.  
But how can one keep warm alone?  
<sup>12</sup> 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?