

Ecclesiastes 4:7-12 – The Vanity of Isolation

August 4, 2019 – Pastor Nick Neves

Verses 7-8 draw our attention to a man who is busy and productive, but who lacks meaningful personal relationships. What might lead a person to become isolated from others?

_____ that are beyond their control

Acting _____ towards our personal relationships

Is it a sin to want to be alone at times?
(see Daniel 6:10, Lamentations 3:25-28, Luke 5:12)

How might our neglect of meaningful relationships constitute sin? Can I isolate myself from others and still glorify God?

Amidst the vanity of life, the preacher helps us see the value of living in fellowship with other people. Verses 9-12 describe four practical reasons why living in fellowship with others is better than living only for yourself.

1. Fellowship with others leads to greater _____

Verse 9 – *Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil.*

2. Fellowship with others leads to greater _____

Verse 10 – *For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!*

3. Fellowship with others leads to greater _____

Verse 11 – *Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone?*

4. Fellowship with others leads to greater _____

Verse 12 – *And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.*

REFLECTION: Consider again the man described in verse 8. His strivings caused him to neglect the very relationships that we have seen can be a tremendous blessing to us. In what ways are my strivings in life – my work, my hobbies, my ambitions, my obligations – hindering the relationships that matter most to me? What do I need to adjust in order to give proper attention and honor to my most important relationship (Jesus), and to my secondary relationships (family, friends, neighbors)?