

“Two Are Better Than One”

Sermon Notes

**Beware the barren way of selfish individualism.
Instead, strive to be content and cooperate with others.**

We consider the model:

1a the Competitive, the Lazy, and the Workaholic (Ecc 4:4-6)

1b the Content (Ecc 4:6)

2a the Scrooge (Ecc 4:7-8)

2b the Companions (Ecc 4:9-16)

Next Week: Ecclesiastes 5:1-7 - “Be Not Rash With Your Mouth”

MEFC Community Group Study Guide
For the Week of November 29th - December 5th

This week, we're going to use the COMA method of studying the Bible, with some adaptation to our text, Ecclesiastes 4:4-16. This method comes from Pastor David Helm in the book *One-to-One Bible Reading*.

Context

What type of writing is this (letter, narrative, poem, wisdom, etc)? How does that impact our study?

Are there any clues about the circumstances in which the Preacher composed these words (hint: how would he have made these observations? What must he have known about the culture?)?

Are there any clues about the audience who first heard these words? How would these words have landed on an Israelite? Are there potential idioms, phrases, cultural ideas they would have quickly grasped?

Observation

What ideas are repeated?

What images, illustrations, or metaphors does the Preacher use? What does he mean by them?

What observations does the Preacher help us make about working and relationships?

How does the Preacher make his appeal? What is the tone of the passage? What emotions does the Preacher arouse in you?

Meaning

How does the Preacher develop his main idea(s)? What "vanities" come with these realities?

What does this passage teach us about God?

How does the passage look forward to Jesus, and life under the Son (example: consider)?

Application

How does the main idea challenge or confirm your beliefs?

Is there some attitude you need to change? Given the message, what should your heart not desire?

How does the Preacher challenge you to change the way you live? Lead you to be loyal to King Jesus?