

# Ecclesiastes: The Quest for Meaning Application Questions

## Part 5

Ecclesiastes 4:4-16

### For Understanding

1. Read Ecclesiastes 4:4-16. Pastor Matt summarized "the Preacher's" observations about the vanity of aloneness with the following three headings: 1. Keeping up with the Joneses (v.4-6) 2. The next great superstar (v.13-16) 3. On top of the world but all alone (v.7-8). Spend some time reflecting on and discussing the irony of each of these three situations.

### For Reflection

2. When it comes to "keeping up with the Joneses" in verses 4-6, in what ways can you personally be tempted in your life to fall into this trap? In light of verse 4, what might be motivating you to play this senseless game?

3. How would you respond to the person that says, "I'm a loner"? In what ways would you seek to both care for this person and challenge him/her using the Bible? Build a Biblical argument (using specific texts) to show that human beings were created by God to both need and enjoy relationships with other human beings.

4. According to verses 9-12, what are the four reasons that "the Preacher" gives to show that "two are better than one."? In what ways have you personally benefited from other Christians serving you in these four ways. In what ways are you currently seeking to build these kinds of relationships within our church family? What are some of the things that can hinder you personally in wanting to pursue Christ-centered relationships? In what ways are you seeking to be a faithful friend to others?

5. On Sunday, we sang the hymn by Joseph Scriven, "What a Friend we Have in Jesus" after the sermon. Pastor Matt then closed the service by reading Jesus' prayer for us in John 17:20-23. Spend some time reflecting and discussing the content of this prayer as it relates to your interactions with other believers in our church family.