

Ecclesiastes 4:7-12

Ecclesiastes 4

Ecclesiastes 4 continues the Teacher's (traditionally Solomon's) sober reflections on life "under the sun." The chapter explores **oppression, envy-driven work, the emptiness of isolated achievement, and the fleeting nature of popularity**. It's a deeply human chapter—raw, honest, and pastorally insightful.

The Vanity of Envy-Driven Work (vv. 4–6)

The Teacher observes that much human labor is fueled by **envy**—a desire to outdo others.

- Success often springs from rivalry
- This, too, is "a chasing after the wind"
- Laziness is also destructive ("the fool folds his hands and consumes his own flesh")
- The wise path is **contentment**:
"Better one handful with tranquility than two handfuls with toil."

This section critiques both **workaholism** and **sloth**, calling for a balanced, peaceful life.