

Series: *Each Step I Take*

How Walking with Others Helps (Ecclesiastes 4:7-12)

One of the greatest blessings God has bestowed upon His people *is* His people. The journey of discipleship isn't a solo undertaking. There are traveling companions. Through the voice of Solomon, God identifies one of the great struggles that people encounter in life: loneliness. But we also learn God's solution: relationship and community in His church.

I. The _____ of _____ (Eccl. 4:7-8)

- A. Life's struggle: Independence, Isolation, and Loneliness.
 - 1. "Loneliness is the first thing which God's eye named not good" – John Milton
 - 2. "We all need solitude but no one can be independent" – Warren Wiersbe
- B. God's solution: Family, Friendship, in the Church.
 - 1. The church is God's _____ (1 Tim. 3:15; 1 John 3:1-2).
 - 2. The church is Jesus' _____ (John 15:13-15; 3 John 14).

II. The _____ of Shared _____ (Eccl. 4:9)

- A. Jesus sent them out 2 by 2 (Mk. 6:7; Lk. 10:1).
- B. Paul traveled with companions: Barnabas, Silas, Timothy, Luke, etc.
- C. Our labors can be large and difficult. Who will encourage us? The Church!
- D. _____ one another (1 Thess. 5:11). We accomplish more together.

III. The _____ From A _____ (Eccl. 4:10)

- A. There are things that trip us up and bring us down. Who will help?
- B. Christians need to be picked up at times.
 - 1. Peter was unexpectedly arrested and church prayed for him (Acts 12:4-5, 12).
 - 2. Antioch sent famine relief to brethren in Judea (Acts 11:29-30).

IV. The _____ of _____ (Eccl. 4:11)

- A. We live in a cold and cruel world. Sin makes the world a selfish and violent place.
- B. Spread warmth with _____ (1 Pet. 4:9).
- C. When hearts grow cold spiritually, they need warmth: _____ (Heb. 10:24-25).

V. The _____ of _____ (Eccl. 4:12)

- A. You have an adversary: the devil (1 Pet. 5:8-9).
- B. A threefold cord: Unity
 - 1. "Unity in the Church gives strength to faith, increases charity, strikes awe into the enemy, and is the pledge of final victory" – Thomas H. Leale
- C. United to _____ the devil (Eph. 6:10-13).
 - 1. _____ temptation (1 Cor. 10:13).
 - 2. _____ the wandering (Jas. 5:19-20).
 - 3. _____ the trespassing/sinning (Gal. 6:1).
- D. United to _____ the lost (John 13:34-35; 17:20-21).
- E. It's a blessing to walk together!