



The Bitterness of Disappointment

Ecclesiastes 4:1-3

- ❑ The Bitterness of Disappointment takes root in a world where...
 - Evil is contagious.
 - Comfort is lacking.

- ❑ Jesus says, "I know how you feel"
 - at the cross.
 - though His people.

GETTING STARTED: When in your life did you really need a friend? Did one come? What did they do that was comforting?

DIGGING DEEPER: Why does Solomon say that the dead are happier than the living (v. 3)? What kinds of things did Solomon call evil Eccles 5:8-6:12)? What do you make of Solomon's response to oppression and evil in v. 3? How do you think this relates to his response in Eccles 3:17 and 12:1? What do these verses say about the activity of the Messiah that was to come: Isa 40:1-5, 61:1-7; Luke 4:17-19? Make a list of the painful moments that Jesus experienced in His life. Do you think He was disappointed? Why or why not? What do these verses say about Jesus' ability to relate to us: Heb 2:18, 4:15-16? Here is a link for a short study on the problem of evil: www.peterkreeft.com/topics/evil.htm.

LIVING IT OUT: What things have been sources of disappointment for you (self, others, world, organizations, the church, God)? How have you seen your own disappointments effect how you relate to God, others, and yourself? Why is dealing with our bitterness so critical (see Heb 12:15)? How can your relationship with Jesus help you step out of bitterness and face the reality of disappointment? What is most comforting to you about the sufferings and life of Jesus? Is there any place in your life you need to hear Him say, "I know how you feel and I am with you?" Pray and ask God to show you who you could be a comfort to this week.