

Living in a Fallen World

- Broken People: Ecclesiastes 4v1-16

The Problem!

What do you think is wrong with the world?

The writer G.K. Chesterton says: *'I am, You are the problem!'*

How does this make you feel?

What are some of the things we see and experience that suggest humanity is the reason why the world is broken?

**The way life is – The destructive nature of humanity**

Oppression

The first thing the Teacher sees is *Oppression* v1-3

What are some of the ways people are oppressed?

Why do you think the teacher says: *'The dead are happier than the living'*? v2

Can you think of a situation or place in the world you would not like to be born into?

Envy

The second thing the teacher sees is *Envy* v4-6

The motive is no longer s\_\_\_\_\_ your family and c\_\_\_\_\_ for your neighbour – it is serve yourself and e\_\_\_\_\_ of your neighbour.

What are some of the effects of Envy?

It b\_\_\_\_\_ relationships, decimates neighbourhoods and d\_\_\_\_\_ communities.

Is there anyone you are envious of? How does it affect your relationship with them?

## Greed

The second thing the teacher sees is *Greed* v7-8

How would you describe a greedy person?

Greed = We are never c\_\_\_\_\_ we always want m\_\_\_\_\_.

What has the greedy man in verse 8 lost?

## **Second The way life can be – The beautiful gift of God**

### The gift of community v9-12

What are some of the reasons Two people are better than One person? v9-10

Oppression, envy and greed are a\_\_\_\_\_ and b\_\_\_\_\_ that push people away!

Why is community important to us?

### The gift of rule v13-16

Good governments bring s\_\_\_\_\_ and p\_\_\_\_\_. Good leaders keep o\_\_\_\_\_ and deliver p\_\_\_\_\_.

If you were President or Taoiseach of Ireland what would you do for the people?

What is the problem with any Leader we experience?

### The gift of Christ

As we read through Ecclesiastes it causes our h\_\_\_\_\_ to hunger for something, someone who is better, greater, truer. The Teacher leads us to C\_\_\_\_\_.

Read Matthew 9v35-36

Christ came as the True King of a Better Kingdom.

He demonstrated the beauty of his Kingdom by healing every disease and illness. He announced that he was King to r\_\_\_\_\_ this broken world and r\_\_\_\_\_ our destructive lives.

Harassed = Living empty unfulfilled lives; Wandering aimlessly; Chasing the wind.

Helpless = Unable to see the danger we are in and unable to Rescue ourselves from that danger.

How did Christ demonstrate his compassion?

He comes as the true shepherd king to give his life not to take life.

He redeems our life by taking the sin of our oppression, envy and greed on himself.

What do we receive through Christ's death?