

STRIVING

AFTER
WHAT
MATTERS



“It’s Lonely at the Top” by Randy Neman

I’ve been around the world
Had my pick of any girl
You’d think I’d be happy
But I’m not
Ev’rybody knows my name
But it’s just a crazy game
Oh it’s lonely at the top

“It’s Lonely at the Top”

by Randy Neman

**Listen to the band they’re playing just for me
Listen to the people paying just for me
All the applause all the parades
And all the money I have made
Oh it’s lonely at the top**

“It’s Lonely at the Top” by Randy Neman

**Listen all you fools out there
Go on and love me I don’t care
Oh it’s lonely at the top
Oh it’s lonely at the top**



It's Lonely at the Top

**The road to the top will
involve much wickedness,
but the pursuit of what
matters will involve a love
for your neighbor.**

It's Lonely at the Top

Ecclesiastes 4:1



¹Again I saw all the oppressions that are done under the sun. And behold, the tears of the oppressed, and they had no one to comfort them! On the side of their oppressors there was power, and there was no one to comfort them.

²And I thought the dead who are already dead more fortunate than the living who are still alive.

³But better than both is he who has not yet been and has not seen the evil deeds that are done under the sun.

⁴Then I saw that all toil and all skill in work come from a man's envy of his neighbor. This also is vanity and a striving after wind.

⁵The fool folds his hands and eats his own flesh.

⁶Better is a handful of quietness than two hands full of toil and a striving after wind.



What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel.

James 4:1-2



You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.

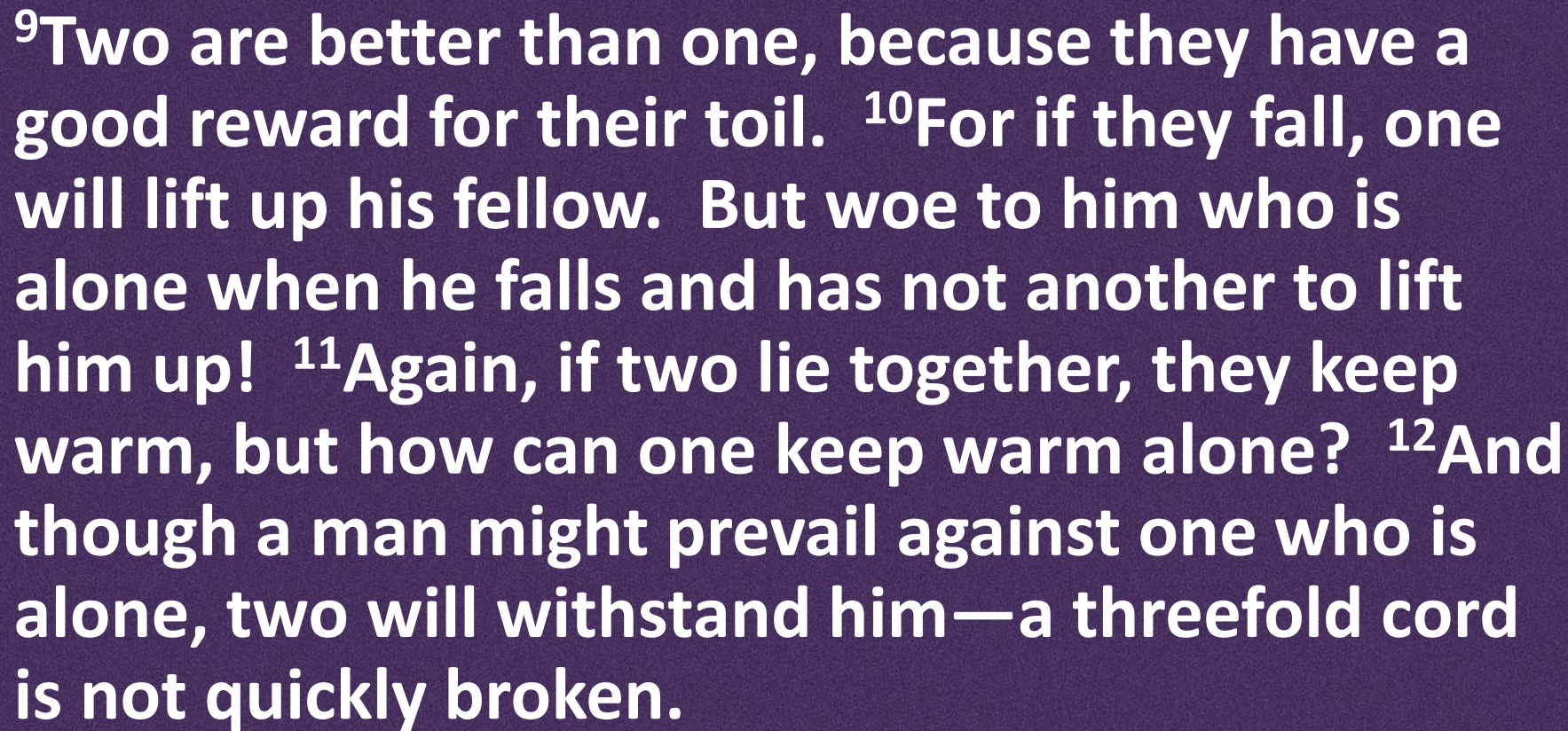
Luke 10:27



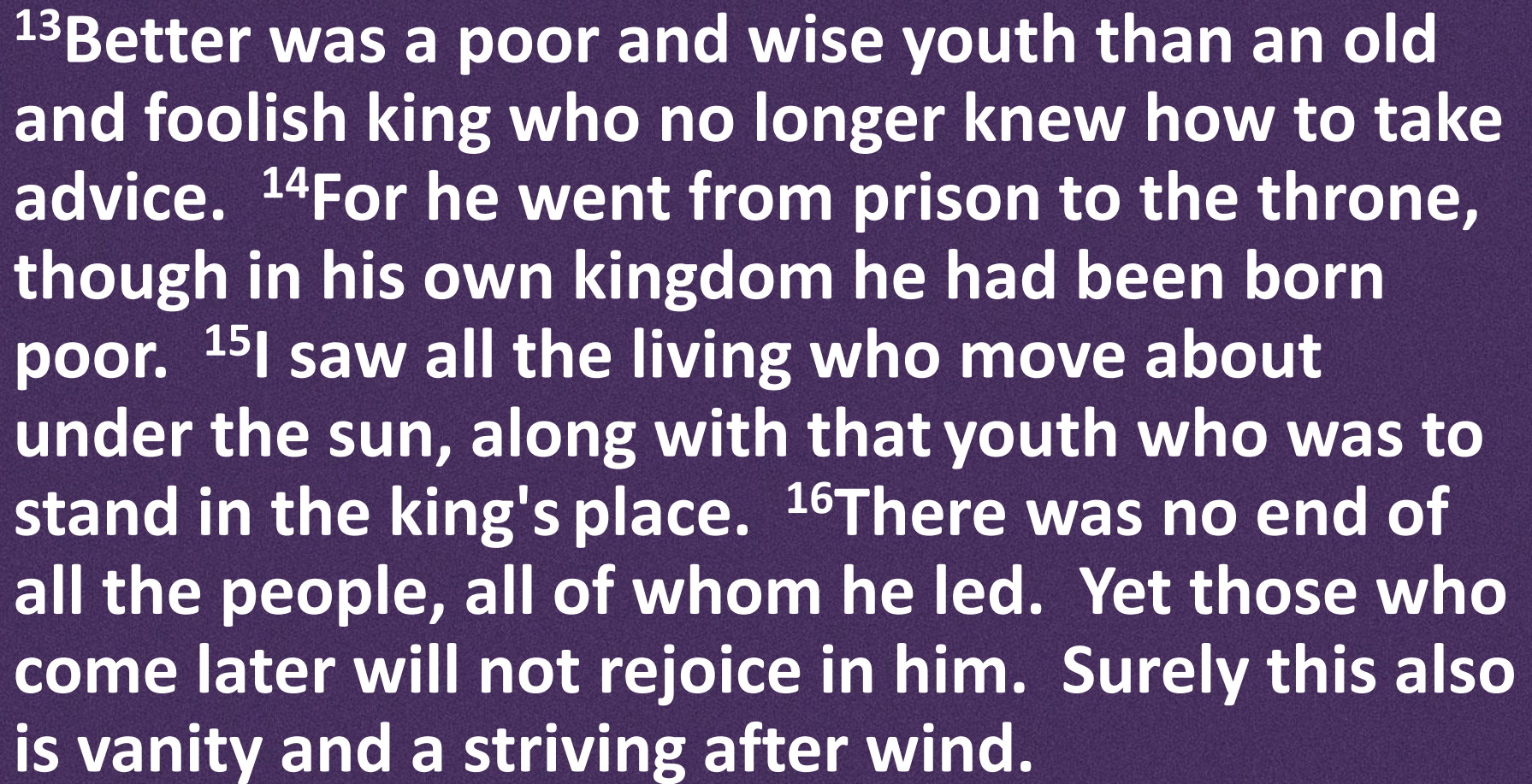
⁷Again, I saw vanity under the sun: ⁸one person who has no other, either son or brother, yet there is no end to all his toil, and his eyes are never satisfied with riches, so that he never asks, “For whom am I toiling and depriving myself of pleasure?” This also is vanity and an unhappy business. ...



⁹Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. ¹⁰For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! ¹¹Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? ¹²And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.



¹³Better was a poor and wise youth than an old and foolish king who no longer knew how to take advice. ¹⁴For he went from prison to the throne, though in his own kingdom he had been born poor. ¹⁵I saw all the living who move about under the sun, along with that youth who was to stand in the king's place. ¹⁶There was no end of all the people, all of whom he led. Yet those who come later will not rejoice in him. Surely this also is vanity and a striving after wind.



**During this time of reflection,
please consider this question:**

**Do your pursuits reveal a
love for self or a love for
your neighbor?**