

11-3-24 Enough is Enough: Practicing Gratitude, Contentment, and Thanksgiving

Week 1

Text: Luke 3:10–14; Hebrews 13:5; 1 Timothy 6:6-12

Topics: Possessions, Needs, Wants,

Big Idea of the Message: We can be content in Christ.

Application Point: We don't have to continually seek after the latest, greatest thing; instead, we should seek Christ, and he will satisfy our desires.

Content: in a state of peaceful satisfaction. "The state of being mentally or emotionally satisfied with things as they are."

Today it is rare that we find anyone who is truly content with his or her condition in life. Contentment is not the fulfillment of what you want, but the realization of how much you already have, being satisfied with it and thankful.

Mankind tends to run to everything but God to try and bring contentment in their lives. [\(click through the slides of wants\)](#)

In **Luke 3:10-14**, some soldiers and tax collectors are asking John the Baptist about how to live, after hearing his message. John answers them, "**Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages**" (Luke 3:14).

The point here is one we can all relate to: be satisfied with what God has blessed you with. That doesn't mean you don't look for a different job that may provide more for your family, or better opportunities to better yourself, but it does mean you don't look at the lives of others and their possessions and decide that you'll do whatever it takes (including stealing or becoming a workaholic) to have the lifestyle you want. **Content is the opposite of covetousness.**

Looking at other passages in the New Testament that use this word (content) can help us understand it better; the first is **Hebrews 13:5**.

"Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." ESV

How to win on being content.

1. It's about who or what you trust in.

- Read Hebrews 13:6.

So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?" ESV

- God's Word says that man can find contentment in things, pleasures, toys, hobbies and of course **money, money, money, money...money!**
- Get all you can while the getting is good! Get that chedda! That's God's policy, right?
- No! God's Word says that if you love money, things, pleasures, toys, vacations, and hobbies you will NEVER be content. The more we sow to the flesh the more the flesh will desire. The

fleshes appetite can NEVER be satisfied, it can NEVER be quenched. It just wants more, and it will not be content.

- Yet, what do so many of us try and do?
- Again, contentment does not mean we cannot desire something or try and better oneself, or strive for a change, but it means being satisfied with what we have in the present.

And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions. Luke 12:15 ESV

- It is an inner sense of rest or peace that comes from being right with God and knowing that He is in control.
- Our focus should be on the kingdom of God and serving Him, not on the love of money and things.
- God desires, wants to be our sole source of contentment, and satisfaction. He desires our obedience, especially from a place of gratitude and thanksgiving.
- Our God is a jealous God and He won’t settle for second place. And when we try and find contentment in anything but Him, we are in a sinful place.
- Where is it that you are seeking contentment in?

(Have kids come up and make a choice between candy and healthy food.)

2. It’s about who you feed the most.

- We all decide who and what. We might try and fool those around us, but God knows who we trust in.
- If you want to be honest with yourself, look with in yourself, who are you feeding the most?
- **Read 1 Timothy 6:9-10.**
- The word “**sorrows**” at the end of **verse 10** is the same word used for birth pangs. I have never experienced birth pains, but we know that as the baby gets closer to being born the birth pangs increase both in frequency and intensity.
- The more an individual chases after, becomes consumed with the love of money, things, and trying to satisfy one self’s selfish desires, the more the birth pangs will grow in frequency and intensity.
- You are what you feed.

“Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless (worthless, vanity)” Ecclesiastes 5:10

It’s about who or what you trust in.

It’s about who you feed the most...

3. It’s about rearranging one’s priorities.

- **Read 1 Timothy 6:6-8.**
- How many have the goal to live a godly life? We strive for godliness.

- Godliness with Contentment. What is Godliness? Godliness is "doing what is pleasing" to God.
- We came into this world naked and without anything and we leave this world naked and without anything. Paul is encouraging Timothy and the church to seek out godliness with contentment, with that you have gained much.
- Again, Godliness is "doing what is pleasing" to God.
- **Read 1 Timothy 6:11-12.**
- What builds contentment in our lives?
- Righteousness (God's way), Godliness (Living to please Him), Faith (In what He has done), Love (An Agape love), Patience (endurance), Gentleness (peaceful).
- When we keep our eyes and our heart set for these types of things in our lives, then we have weapons against the wave of discontent that is sure to wash over us.
- When we are self-absorbed, committed to sin, faithless, hard-hearted, quick to quit, and quite rough around the edges, discontent flourishes inside our hearts and directs our actions.
- Living self-absorbed leads to entitlement, anger, bitterness, never enough, blaming others for your missteps or misfortune.
- Building contentment is hard work. But we must be willing to try. In **verse 12** Paul tells Timothy and us that it will be hard. **"Fight the good fight of the faith."**
- It is a fight to keep ourselves righteous, godly, faithful, loving, full of endurance, and gentle.
- Paul uses the word **"fight."** This is an uphill battle for us, but one worth taking on. This is a long obstacle course challenge that is worth our time and effort. Cultivating contentment will keep us from ruining our lives and making very poor decisions.
- Contentment, gratitude and thanksgiving really are a spiritual issue and is not an amount-of-money issue. God is always there and never changes and informs us how we can be content with our finances.
- Financial contentment has less to do with money and more to do with our attitudes, belief systems, and decisions.
- Financial contentment brings peace of mind. Peace of mind and contentment comes from committing ourselves to righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness.
- Could our lack of contentment, anxiety, dissatisfaction, and unrest be because our priorities are out of order?
- Are we (you) seeking the kingdom of God first? Over everything else?
- We are SO quick to say, YES, or of course. Then we go, sometimes ignorantly, sometimes on purpose, return to serving ourselves. We spend our time, treasure and talents on other things besides what God desires. We are the problem. We always are and will be. Unless there is a surrender to God, we will continue to seek fulfillment, contentment in other things. And we will continue to be found in wanting and chaos.

Conclusion

Who and What do you trust in?

You can figure it out by what you feed the most.

Reprioritizing an individual's priorities is the beginning of seeking the kingdom of God.

Relax, God is in control.

Rest in what God provides. (Be thankful! What are you thankful for?)

Refuse to let circumstances dictate your joy.

Rely on God's strength.

Release your resources.

Are you born again?