

FINDING CONTENTMENT - POSSESSION

PRECEPT

LUKE 3:10-14

¹⁰ “What should we do then?” the crowd asked. ¹¹ John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.” ¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?” ¹³ “Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them. ¹⁴ Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?” He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.”

HEBREWS 13:5

⁵ Your conduct must be free from the love of money, and you must be content with what you have. For He has said, “I will never leave you and I will never abandon you.”

PROMISE

By nature, we are not content and always want more. We just never have enough material things that the world can offer. This is why we need to be intentional in being content because it goes against our nature. Discontent often leads to more stress, worries, sadness, conflicts, and temptations. The Bible tells us a lot about discontentment and how to overcome it.

In Luke 3, some soldiers and tax collectors are asking John the Baptist about how to live, after hearing his message. John answers them, “*Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages*” (Luke 3:14). The point here is one we can all relate to: be satisfied with the income that we have. That doesn’t mean we should not look for a different job that may provide more for our family, but it does mean we don’t look at the lives of others and their possessions and decide that we’ll do whatever it takes (including stealing or becoming a workaholic) to have the lifestyle we want. Contentment is the opposite of covetousness. Ecclesiastes 5:10 tells us, “*Those who love money will never have enough. How meaningless to think that wealth brings true happiness!*”

¹ Timothy 6:6–8 also says, “*But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.*” “You can’t take it with you.” How often have we heard that saying when it comes to the things of this world? Whether accomplishments or possessions, in the end we have to leave them all behind. Contentment is a way of letting go of our attachment to the things of this world, of not becoming too entangled with what is not eternal. If we have what we need—food and clothing; or as we might say, the bare necessities of life—we can be content. Ecclesiastes 5:19 says, “*If God gives us wealth and property and lets us enjoy them, we should be grateful and enjoy what we have worked for. It is a gift from God.*” Another way to combat discontentment is to be grateful always. Thank God for the small things like waking up in the morning, for being able to do the things that you want to do, etc. It is important to pause and recognize that many people in this world do not have the bare necessities. We are amongst the richest people on earth, for this we must be grateful.

In Hebrews 13:5, the reason we are able to not love money and to be content is in the second half of the verse: “*For he has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’*” It is the presence of Jesus that enables us to be content—in Him. We do have a hole in our life that cannot be filled with any things, whether we land our dream job or not. We need Jesus, and only He can satisfy our deepest needs.

PRACTICE

1. Life Right Now. Do you feel contentment in your life right now? Why or why not? How would you describe contentment?

2. Contentment in Christ. Have you experienced contentment in Christ? If so, can you please describe that experience for others?

PRAYER

I. Families

- Pray for families to be grounded in God’s love, always loving and serving one another.

II. Growth

- Pray that our church will trust Jesus to grow His church, in His way and in His power.

III. Unity

- Pray that no division will ever pervade our church. May His church be one of peace and unity.

IV. Relationships

- Pray for transparent and meaningful relationships among our communities and brethren.

V. Love

- May God bless us with love, that we may love as He loves; that we may show kindness and care to all.

VI. Joy

- May God grant us joy at all times, and give us a willing spirit to pursue truth and goodness in our lives.

VII. Unreached

- Pray for God to open the minds and hearts of the unreached to the light of the Gospel.