

Contentment

Philippians 4:10-13

Sermon Discussion Questions

August 1, 2021

1. Pastor Tom began his message by sharing a poem (found below) that speaks to discontentment. It speaks of our desire to go after what we think will make us happy only to find out it wasn't enough. How does discontentment resemble what Jeremiah shares in Jeremiah 2:13?

Share with the group something you desired that you thought would fulfill you but left you longing for more.

2. As a group, **read 1 Kings 17:7-16**. Pastor Tom said that the first aspect of contentment is to rejoice in God's provision. Is it easy for you to trust in His provision when He calls you to give your last as a source of His provision to someone else?

What can we learn from this widow in times of plenty and lack?

3. Tom told us that contentment is unconnected to circumstances. According to him, both the rich and the poor have dangers and temptations, respectively. If you could choose your circumstance between the rich and the poor, which one would be most useful for God to teach you contentment?

Are you there now? Why or why not?

4. How has/is God teaching you contentment? Has this been a lesson you have embraced or one you have fought God on? What encouragement is found in the fact that God desires for you to learn contentment?
5. If you had to explain to a new believer, the verse Philippians 4:13 "I can do all this through him who gives me strength" how would you explain this verse with proper context?

Present Tense

*It was spring, but it was summer I wanted,
the warm days, and the great outdoors.
It was summer, but it was fall I wanted,
the colorful leaves, and the cool, dry air.
It was fall, but it was winter I wanted,
the beautiful snow, and the joy of the holiday season.
It was now winter, but it was spring I wanted.
The warmth, and the blossoming of nature.
I was a child, but it was adulthood I wanted,
the freedom, and the respect.
I was twenty, but it was thirty I wanted
to be mature, and sophisticated.
I was middle-aged, but it was thirty I wanted,
the youth, and the free spirit.*

*I was retired, but it was middle-age, that I wanted,
the presence of mind, without limitations.
My life was over,
but I never got what I wanted.*