

Finding Contentment in a World Built for Greed

Psalm 23:1-3

Simple Truth #5

God must be our God.

or *Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind*

1. Defining Contentment

¹ *The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.*

² *He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,*

³ *he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.* —Psalm 23:1-3

What is contentment to:

A recent widow _____

A grieving young mother _____

A busy business man _____

What is your definition of contentment? _____

2. Examining Our Struggle

Our Striving for Stuff.

What do you feel the “need” to accumulate? _____

Our Pursuit of Power

Our Focus on Self

What keeps you from being fully content? _____

Jesus and the Other Way

“⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹“All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.” ¹⁰Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’” —Matthew 4:8-10

3. How to Find Contentment

¹³Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." ¹⁴Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" ¹⁵Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

²⁰"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' ²¹"This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God." —Luke 12:13-15, 20-21

To be rich toward God equals contentment.

- **Cultivate an attitude of gratitude.** Philippians 4:10-13
- **Give to those in need.** Psalm 41 and James 1:27
- **Praise God every hour of every day.** Lamentations 3:22-23
- **Pursue peace with those around you.** Psalm 34:12-14
- **Be still, stop stalking, and listen for God to talk to you.** Psalm 23
- **Keep your priorities straight.** Matthew 6:24

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“My grandpa has done so many things for me it is ridiculous. They are so vast we would need a blackboard the size of the Great Wall of China to list them... He has taught me how to fish and how to be content.”
—Caleb Bartel, age 10.