

## BEAUTIFUL THINGS

Title: Part 5 – “What Amazon Can't Deliver”

Date: September 14, 2025

While everyone here in the house is saying “Hi” to each other I want to say “Hi” if you are joining us online or on our app, thank you for spending some time with us! We think you are a part of our church family so let us know how we can pray for you or serve you—we'd love to walk alongside you in any way that we can.

Well, how's everyone doing today? We're in week five of a collection of messages called "Beautiful Things: Six Things You Can't Live Without," and each week we're reading this same passage of Scripture together from Psalm 103. This is one of those passages that is so rich that it is too good to forget. So, we have been reading this out loud with the hopes that by the end we will have this memorized. Anyone think they have it yet? I'm gonna try this week without looking but will definitely have it down by next. Let's all read these together out loud. Psalm 103, verses 1 through 5:

<sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. <sup>2</sup> Praise the Lord, my soul, and ***forget not*** all his **BENEFITS**—<sup>3</sup> who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, <sup>4</sup> who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, <sup>5</sup> who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

King David, who wrote this, is directing his soul to remember what we are so prone to forget. That there are **some things** we desperately need that **only come from the hand of God**.

The problem though is that most of us, Christian, skeptic, don't know what you are, most of us are looking for these things we desperately need in unreliable, temporary, or completely out of our control places. We think peace of mind comes from having enough money in the bank. We think healing comes from the right doctor. We think hope comes from the right politician. We think love comes from finding the right person.

AND when those things get threatened or taken away, we panic. We despair. We think our lives are over! **THIS is American life today!**

- Ninety percent of Americans believe we're in a mental health crisis.
- We're the most medicated nation in history yet among the unhealthiest.
- Sixty-two percent of our country reports financial stress as a major concern.
- We have more ways to connect than ever before, but loneliness and suicide are at epidemic levels.

Everyone's searching for the same things: peace of mind, physical and emotional healing, hope for the future, love and acceptance, true satisfaction, and the energy to keep going.

BUT King David discovered six beautiful things that are different. They can't be taken away! They don't fluctuate with the markets! They don't depend on your performance or other people's behavior! They survive every storm, outlast every crisis, and satisfy every longing.

Things like FORGIVENESS. That was week one. Not partial, not conditional, but complete forgiveness that transforms your broken things into beautiful things. Then things like HEALING for all your diseases—not just treating symptoms, but restoring every part of your life to its original design of wholeness. Then we talked about REDEMPTION from the pit—where God qualifies as your kinsman redeemer, willing and able to rescue you from whatever circumstances have trapped you. Last time we discovered that we are CROWNED with love and compassion—establishing our royal identity that can never be taken away.

AND I hope you are starting to understand this, but these aren't just nice religious concepts. These are life-or-death necessities. Because when we forget God's benefits, we start trying to find these same things in other places. But it doesn't work. It never works. There are some beautiful things that only come from God.

If you missed any of this you can get caught up on our app or website, but today we're talking about the fifth benefit that David lists AND it addresses something that's driving our culture to the brink of insanity: the relentless pursuit of satisfaction through stuff.

Today I want to preach a message I'm calling:

## What Amazon Can't Deliver

Let me ask you something: How many packages like **{THIS}** did you get delivered to your house this week? How many smiling boxes? How many of you got at least 1, raise your hands. Keep 'em up if you got 2. Keep 'em up if you got 3 or more... Get this, if you are like most Americans you get 218 packages on average per year!

Here's another question: How many times did you check your phone to see if your most recent order had shipped? OR what about this: How many times did you scroll through Amazon, Target, or some other app just to see what's on sale?

My point is not to make anyone feel bad, it just illustrates why I say this is something that's driving our culture to the brink of insanity. We spend more on online stuff than most

countries spend on their entire economy. We have entire TV shows dedicated to buying things—Home Shopping Network, QVC, Amazon Live. We have entire social media platforms built around showing off things—Instagram hauls, TikTok unboxings, Pinterest wish lists. We have entire industries designed to convince us we need things, last year companies spent \$600 billion just on advertising!

AND yet, we're more dissatisfied than ever.

But here is the dark side. Seventy-six percent of Americans are living paycheck to paycheck, not because they don't have enough money to survive, but because they can't stop buying things they think will make them happy. Think about that—three out of four people in the wealthiest nation in human history can't make it to the next payday because of stuff they bought but didn't need. People are buying things they can't afford for temporary emotional relief.

"Come on Pastor Brian, don't you think that is a little extreme?" Maybe, but what do you call this:

- The average American has \$6,000 worth of stuff in their closet they never wear—clothes with tags still on them, shoes worn once, a dress for an occasion that never came.
- On average we have \$1,200 worth of food in our pantries and freezers we never eat—expired cans in the back, specialty ingredients for recipes we never made, supplements we took twice and forgot about.
- We have countless items in our garages we never use—exercise equipment that became obsolete, clothing racks, gear for hobbies we abandoned, storage bins full of things we can't even remember buying.
- The storage unit industry brings in \$32 billion annually, storing all the things we can't fit in our houses anymore!

We're drowning in stuff but starving for satisfaction. Amen?

Here's what's happening in real time: You're scrolling on your phone, and you see an ad for something that promises to solve a problem you didn't even know you had. "This organizing system will change your life!" "This skincare routine will give you confidence!" "This gadget will replace all these tools!" And something inside you whispers, "Maybe this is it. Maybe this is the thing that will finally make me feel better about my life." So, you click "add to cart" and for about thirty seconds, you feel better. There's a little dopamine hit—you've done something! You've taken action! You've moved toward a solution!

But then the package arrives, and after the initial excitement of opening it wears off, you realize... you're still you. You're still dealing with the same problems, the same emptiness,

the same restlessness. BUT instead of questioning why a \$29.99 purchase didn't transform your entire existence, you think, "Well, maybe I bought the wrong thing. Maybe what I really need is that other product I saw advertised."

So, you buy something else. And when that doesn't work, you buy something else. And when that doesn't work, you convince yourself that the problem is you're not buying the right brand, or spending enough money, or you need to buy the whole system, not just one piece.

The cycle continues until your house is full of things that were supposed to make you happy but didn't, your credit cards are maxed out on purchases that were supposed to satisfy but don't, and your heart is still empty despite being surrounded by abundance.

We've become addicts, and our drug is acquisition. We get high from buying, crash when it doesn't deliver, and then need another fix. Amazon has become our dealer, delivering hits of temporary happiness right to our door. One-click purchasing has made it easier than ever to medicate our feelings with merchandise.

BUT here's where it gets really insane: ***we know this!*** We know that last purchase didn't make us happy, but we're already planning the next one. We know we have closets full of clothes we don't wear, but we're browsing online stores looking for something new. We know we're stressed about money, but we justify one more purchase because "it's on sale" or "I deserve this" or "it's an investment in my future self."

We've been sold a lie so sophisticated, so pervasive, so deeply embedded in our culture that we can't escape it: happiness can be purchased, joy can be delivered, and satisfaction can be bought. Every advertisement is essentially saying, "You're not happy because you don't have this. Buy this and you will be." Every sale is promising, "This discount is your chance at happiness." Every new product launch is declaring, "This is the solution you've been waiting for."

And we believe it! Not because we're stupid, but because we're desperate. We're desperate for peace, for joy, for satisfaction, for meaning, for purpose—and when you're drowning, you'll grab onto anything that looks like it might save you, even if it's actually just pulling you further under.

BUT here's what David discovered that can break this cycle forever: there are some things that **actually satisfy**, but they can't be bought, they can't be delivered, and they don't come from Amazon.

David says again in Psalm 103 that God is the One:

<sup>5</sup> who satisfies your desires with GOOD things...

As we have done every week, let's dig a little deeper into the Hebrew word for "good" that David uses here. Write this down first though:

## God's definition of "good" things is different.

The Hebrew word David uses for "good things" is tob {toe-v}. AND this isn't just any word for nice stuff or pleasant experiences. This is the same word used in Genesis 1 when God looked at everything He created and declared it "good."

Tob means: perfect in quality, beneficial in nature, and excellent in character. It's not just good because it feels good—it's good because it's actually good for you.

Meaning that when God satisfies your desires with good things, He's not just giving you stuff that makes you temporarily happy. Although sometimes He does. But what this really means is that God is giving you things that are actually beneficial for your soul, excellent for your character, and perfect for your ultimate well-being.

Think about the difference between junk food and clean food. Junk food might taste good in the moment, and it does otherwise we wouldn't have donuts every Sunday in the lobby, they taste good but are they good for you? Not particularly. Clean foods on the other hand might not always taste as exciting, no one is rushing to buy hard-boiled eggs or steal cut oats at the café, but those foods actually nourish your body and give you strength.

The same thing is true spiritually. The world offers us junk satisfaction—temporary pleasures that taste good in the moment but leave us malnourished spiritually. BUT God offers us tob! Real satisfaction—things that might not always give us immediate gratification but actually nourish our souls and give us lasting joy.

BUT here's what I find most fascinating about David's word choice: the word tob is also used to describe God's character. When Moses asked to see God's glory in Exodus 33 God said this:

<sup>19</sup> "I will cause all my GOODNESS [tob] to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the Lord, in your presence.

SO, the good things God gives you aren't just random blessings—they're expressions of His own character.

Think about what this means: when God satisfies you, He's not reaching into some cosmic warehouse and pulling out generic "good stuff" to make you happy. He's giving you pieces of Himself. He's sharing His own nature with you.

When you experience God's peace in the middle of a storm, that's not just a nice feeling—that's God giving you His own unshakeable calm. When you feel joy despite your circumstances, that's not just positive thinking—that's God sharing His own eternal happiness with you. When you have hope in a hopeless situation, that's not just optimism—that's God letting you tap into His own certainty about how your story ends.

When God satisfies you with good things, He's satisfying you with Himself! He's giving you pieces of His own nature:

- His love that never fails...
- His peace that passes understanding...
- His joy that doesn't depend on circumstances...
- His hope that anchors your soul...
- His faithfulness that never wavers!

And those things, unlike anything you can buy, actually have the power to satisfy the deepest longings of your heart!

This is why material things can never truly satisfy us—they're not connected to God's character. That new car might give you a temporary thrill, but it can't give you peace. That new outfit might make you feel confident for a moment, but it can't give you lasting joy. That perfect couch or chair might provide comfort, but it can't give you hope for eternity.

BUT when God satisfies you with His love, you're receiving divine satisfaction. You're being filled with the same qualities that make God who He is. You're not just getting stuff—you're getting God Himself.

This changes everything! When you're anxious, God doesn't just give you calmness—He gives you His peace. When you're sad, God doesn't just cheer you up—He gives you His joy. When you're afraid, God doesn't just encourage you—He gives you His courage. When you're lonely, God doesn't just provide companionship—He gives you His love.

No wonder David could say his desires were satisfied with good things. He wasn't just getting blessed—he was getting God! He wasn't just receiving gifts—he was receiving the Giver. He wasn't just experiencing good things—he was experiencing the goodness of God Himself.

AND that's the first thing we need to understand today. God's definition of "good" things is different. Here's the second today:

## **Your desires aren't the problem.**

Turn to your neighbor and tell them, "Your desires aren't the problem..." Now turn to your other neighbor and tell them, "Your desires aren't the problem either."

Before we go any further we need to address this. Your desires aren't the problem. God doesn't want you to somehow just eliminate your desires and think that solves everything. NO! God doesn't want you to eliminate your desires—He wants to satisfy them.

A lot of religious people think the solution to consumerism is to stop wanting stuff. They think the key to contentment is to lower your expectations, suppress your longings, and accept mediocrity.

BUT that's not what David is saying. He doesn't say God eliminates your desires. He says God satisfies them! WHY? Because God created you with desires! He wired you to long for beauty, to hunger for meaning, to thirst for connection, to crave purpose, to seek joy. Those desires aren't sinful—they're sacred!

The problem isn't that you have desires. The problem is that you're trying to satisfy God-sized desires with Amazon-sized solutions.

C.S. Lewis put it perfectly:

"We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea."

Lewis is saying you're not wanting too much—you're settling for too little! You're not desiring too deeply—you're satisfying too shallowly!

God wants to give us the holiday at the sea, but we keep settling for mud pies in the slum. He wants to satisfy our deepest longings with the best things, but we keep trying to fill them with cheap substitutes.

BUT maybe the problem isn't just what we're pursuing—maybe it's how we're pursuing it. Our culture has actually started to recognize that owning stuff isn't the answer. We're

shifting away from accumulating possessions toward accessing experiences. We don't buy movies anymore—we subscribe to Netflix. We don't buy music—we stream Spotify. We don't buy cars—we lease. This shift reveals something profound about what we actually want, but I think we're still subscribing to the wrong things.

AND that's my next point today:

## **No subscription can satisfy.**

We live in what economists call the "subscription economy." Instead of owning things, we subscribe to access them. The subscription economy is now worth \$1.5 trillion globally and is projected to keep growing.

AND here's what's interesting: this shift reveals something profound about human nature. Deep down, we don't really want to own more stuff. What we want is access to experiences, relationships, and meaning. The problem is, we're subscribing to the wrong things. We're paying monthly fees for entertainment that distracts us rather than satisfies us. We're subscribing to platforms that connect us to information rather than to people. We're buying access to experiences that stimulate us rather than fulfill us.

But here's what David discovered: God offers the ultimate subscription. When you enter into relationship with Him, you get unlimited access to everything that *actually* satisfies.

You get 24/7 access to His peace when you're anxious. You get unlimited streaming of His love when you feel rejected. You get premium access to His wisdom when you're confused. You get exclusive membership to His purposes when you feel meaningless.

And here's the best part: this subscription never expires, never gets cancelled, never increases in price, and never runs out of bandwidth.

David famously writes in Psalm 23:1:

**The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.**

The Message translation puts it like this:

**God, my shepherd! I don't need a thing.**

NOT because you stop having desires, but because you have access to the One who satisfies every desire with good things.



SO, what are these good things that God satisfies us with? What are the things that Amazon can't deliver, and Spotify can't stream? I put a few of these in my notes, this is not exhaustive, but:

### **Peace of mind.**

You can buy security systems, but you can't buy peace. You can purchase insurance, but you can't purchase inner calm. You can order sleeping pills, but you can't order a quiet heart.

### **Real relationships.**

That's another one. You can buy followers on social media, but you can't buy genuine friendship. You can purchase dating apps, but you can't purchase authentic love. You can hire people to serve you, but you can't hire people to truly know you. Relationships are the best things.

### **Purpose and meaning.**

You can buy career coaching, but you can't buy a calling. You can purchase motivational books, but you can't purchase passion for something bigger than yourself. You can order productivity tools, but you can't order a reason to be productive.

### **Joy and contentment.**

You can buy temporary happiness through entertainment and experiences, but you can't buy deep, lasting joy. You can purchase distractions from your problems, but you can't purchase satisfaction with your life. AND you can't buy...

### **Hope for the future.**

You can buy retirement plans, but you can't buy confidence about eternity. You can purchase life insurance, but you can't purchase assurance about what happens after life. Amen?

These are the best things—the good things that actually satisfy because they address the deepest needs of your soul.

And here's what's beautiful: when God satisfies you with these good things, you stop needing to buy so much other stuff. When your heart is full, your shopping cart gets

lighter. When your soul is satisfied, your credit card gets a break from all these subscriptions.

But here's what you need to understand: God's satisfaction system works differently than Amazon's delivery system. Write this down:

### **True satisfaction is cultivated, not delivered.**

See, Amazon promises instant gratification. Order today, get it tomorrow. One-click purchasing. Same-day delivery. Everything is designed for speed and convenience.

God's satisfaction system is more like a garden than a delivery service. He plants seeds of good things in your life, and they grow over time into satisfaction that lasts. He doesn't just deliver happiness to your door—He grows joy in your heart.

Think about it: the best things in your life probably didn't come overnight. The most meaningful relationships develop slowly. Your sense of calling or purpose emerged gradually. A deep peace in your heart grew over time through trials and testing and God proving faithful.

God satisfies your desires with good things, but those good things often come disguised as difficult things at first. The discipline that leads to character doesn't feel satisfying in the moment. The sacrifice that leads to love doesn't feel good initially. The surrender that leads to peace doesn't feel pleasant at first. BUT over time, these difficult things produce the good things that actually satisfy.

Hebrews 12:11 says:

**"No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it."**

God's satisfaction system isn't about instant gratification—it's about ultimate satisfaction. He's not trying to make you happy in the moment—He's trying to make you joyful for eternity.

Ask yourself this question: **Do you trust God's timing more than your own impatience?** {REPEAT} OR asking it another way: **Would you rather have what you want right now, or what's actually best for you in the long run?**

AND that takes us to the promise:

**God's good things come with a satisfaction guarantee.**

When you buy something on Amazon and it doesn't work, you can return it. But you've still wasted time, energy, and sometimes shipping costs. When you invest in a relationship that disappoints you, you can't get back the emotional energy you spent. When you pursue a goal that turns out to be empty, you can't recover the years you invested.

BUT when God satisfies you with good things, there are no returns, no exchanges, no disappointments, no buyer's remorse. Because everything He gives you is actually good for you!

God sent me today to tell someone that:

- You've been trying to fill your cart when you should be filling your heart!
- You've been pursuing same-day delivery when you should be pursuing eternal satisfaction!
- You've been subscribing to services that drain your bank account when you could be accessing resources that fill your soul!
- You've been one-clicking your way to debt when you could be walking your way to abundance!
- You've been looking for satisfaction in all the wrong places when the God who satisfies your desires with good things has been waiting for you to come home!

Maybe you're drowning in debt because you keep buying things that promise happiness but don't deliver. Maybe your house is full of stuff, but your heart is still empty. Maybe you've got everything you thought you wanted but you're still not satisfied.

That's because you're trying to satisfy infinite desires with finite things. You're trying to fill a God-shaped hole with Amazon-shaped packages.

But I want you to know that:

- God has better things for you than anything you can buy!
- He has peace that's more valuable than the most expensive brands!
- He has love that's more satisfying than the most rewarding relationship!
- He has purpose that's more fulfilling than the most successful career!

And He's offering all of this to you right now, with free shipping and a satisfaction guarantee that lasts forever!

The holidays are right around the corner and God is offering you the ultimate Black Friday deal, but instead of one day or one weekend, it's available every day of the year.

Everything you've been trying to buy; He gives for free. Everything you've been trying to earn, He offers as a gift. Everything you've been trying to achieve, He provides as grace.

Isaiah 55 says: (v.1-2)

<sup>1</sup> “Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. <sup>2</sup> Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare.”

Stop spending money on what doesn't satisfy! Stop laboring for what doesn't last! Stop subscribing to services that don't serve your soul!

Come to God and feast on the good things that actually satisfy! Come to Him and discover that what you've been searching for in the store is found in the Savior!

The issue isn't whether or not you're satisfied. The issue is what you're satisfied with. AND when you're satisfied with God's good things, everything else becomes a bonus rather than a necessity.

Next week, we're going to talk about the final beautiful thing: how God renews your youth like the eagle's. We're going to discover that the energy and vitality you're looking for isn't found in supplements or self-care routines, but in spiritual practices that connect you to the source of all life.

But for today, I want you to walk out of here with this truth: **the satisfaction you're looking for can't be delivered by Amazon, but it can be provided by the God who satisfies your desires with good things.**

Stop shopping for satisfaction. Start trusting for it. Stop buying happiness. Start receiving joy. Stop purchasing peace. Start accepting it as a gift from the God who loves you.

Let's pray together.