



Keys to Escaping the Prison of Want (a.k.a. Keys to Contentment)

Psalm 23:1-6 (NKJV)

1. **THE STUFF WE WANT IS NOT OUR OWN.**

ECCLESIASTES 5:15 (NIV) *Everyone comes naked from their mother's womb, and as everyone comes, so they depart. They take nothing from their toil that they can carry in their hands*

PSALMS 50:7-12 *"Hear, O My people, and I will speak, O Israel, and I will testify against you; I am God, your God!"⁸ I will not rebuke you for your sacrifices Or your burnt offerings, Which are continually before Me.⁹ I will not take a bull from your house, Nor goats out of your folds.¹⁰ For every beast of the forest is Mine, And the cattle on a thousand hills.¹¹ I know all the birds of the mountains, And the wild beasts of the field are Mine.¹² "If I were hungry, I would not tell you; For the world is Mine, and all its fullness.*

2. **THE STUFF WE WANT IS NOT US.**

LUKE 12:15 (MSG) *And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."*

LUKE 12:16-21 *Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully.¹⁷ And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?'¹⁸ So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods.¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry."²⁰ But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?'²¹ "So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."*

3. **HAVING JESUS IS GREATER THAN THE STUFF.**

PHILIPPIANS 4:11 *Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:*

PHILIPPIANS 3:8 (KJV) *Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,*