

SATISFIED SERIES – Part 1

The Original Lie

By Brian Flewelling; 9.16.18

VIDEO:

INTRO:

Welcome to our seven-week SATISFIED Teaching Series. Tagline: Finding satisfaction in God instead of the lies we believe. For some of you this is a whole new concept. You're saying, "I know there must be a God. I know we're supposed to obey Him. I know we follow God. We serve God. We go to church. But what do you mean being SATISFIED in God? Many of us didn't grow up talking that way." We grew up talking about what we do. How we act. How we obey. We grew up talking about rules.

When we investigate the scriptures closely, the number one priority God has for you is a loving relationship. More than anything he wants to share life with you.

[John 15:9](#) As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.

God desires lovers and not just rule-followers. God desires relationship and not just regulation-ship.

Jesus lived from eternity past one in heart and mind with the Father, in perfect joyful abundant community. Being known and knowing. Being satisfied and satisfying. When he got baptized the audible voice of God was heard "This is my son, whom I love, with him I am well pleased." Jesus said, "I do only what I see my Father doing." Jesus living in perfect bendability to the Father. The overflow of His Father's love.

[John 10:10](#) I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full (overflow).

Psalm 23 says, "My cup overflows."

God designed us to overflow in a satisfied relationship with Him.

[John 15:9](#) "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.

What's your job? – "Remain in..."

We think we gotta start gett'n jiggy wid-it. We think we gotta start producing fruit. Get busy and show him I'm worthy of his grace. We start living like we're going to impress a different set of people. We try so hard. Goal oriented.

God isn't goal oriented. He's relationally oriented. Relax. Let's get to know each other. Let's have a relationship. Busyness is the enemy of friendship. Stop trying to impress everyone. That's not the real you. I want to get to the real you. The one without the walls and pretend(ings). With embarrassments, with the pains, with the abandonments. The dreams. The creativity. The quirky personality. Let that hang out a little more. Let's unpack this.

The Father's love for you is so abundant and patient...it's all around you. You simply need to "Remain in it." Put your roots down. Stop doing and start resting! In His love, drinking out of my

love, moving in my love. Start tearing down the fences you've put up to protect yourself. You don't need those anymore.

Both of these mentalities practice the spiritual disciplines: Prayer, Bible, Worship, Community. But one is looking for success and one is looking for Father.

Galatians 4:6 God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father."

I sent my son into your heart, so you could have a "Dadda" kind of relationship. This is your destiny, your calling, God's plan for your life. To be fully, completely, satisfying immersed in the flood stage of His love everywhere you go and in everything you do.

There's a problem.

Every great story has a conflict. Hollywood. Novels. Our human history...Jack and Jill... Something knocked us down the hill. Something is intercepting the overflow of God.

Romans 1:25

They exchanged the truth about God for a lie. So a lie (a tiny little fiction) stepped into the path.

Genesis 2:8-9; 15-17

Two literal trees that represent a choice we have to make. These two trees contain universal truths.

Tree of Life – It represents eating out of the abundance of God's Life and relationship. It represents, mankind in all of our creativity, walking in partnership with our Creator.

Tree of the knowledge of good and evil – represents independence from God.

- Give me the instructions. I can decide for myself. I don't need you looking over my shoulder. I don't need you.
- Frank Sinatra unknowingly captured the attitude in his anthem-- "I did it my way!"

At the beginning of our human story God's priority, original intent:

- He wants children who eat from the tree of life and not the tree of regulations.
- who eat in His presence, not who eat of their own merit.
- who love community with their Father, and not who love their independence.
- God desires lovers not just rule followers.

God warned us. We can have a partnership. Or you can have independence. But you can't have both. If you disconnect from my life source (the clock starts ticking).

Paul said, "The wages of sin is death." The cost of self-sufficiency is death.

There is an interesting wrinkle in our story. There is a villain. There is active evil in our world. The power of that evil was incarnated in the form of this serpent. And he breathed deception. Fiction. Into their minds and hearts.

Genesis 3:1-5

Satan tempts Eve. **Mouse trap.**

Greek word that produced Scandal – is the word for the lever that holds the bait.

The bait on the trap (the yummy food-the thing you really want) is independence. But he draws her towards independence by lying about the character of God.

Serpent's Lie: You're not gonna die. God isn't all he's cracked up to be. God doesn't want you to take the wheel because he's a control freak. He has to have everything his way. He knows if he gives you the wheel you will see all that he's holding out on you. You don't have to put up with His interference anymore. It's your life. Life is so much better without him meddling around in it. Think of all the things you'd get to have for yourself – you get to decide what's good for you and bad for you.

The Original Lie:

Deciding for yourself is better than trusting God.

The original lie, the lie that produces every lie. Now within me has awakened a spirit of self-sufficiency. There are millions of lies we believe.

- Protecting myself is better than trusting God.
- Pleasing myself is better than waiting on God's blessings.
- Making a way for myself is better than waiting on God's process.
- Success and recognition is better than hiddenness in God.
- Be worthy and sufficient is better than having to be dependent on someone -- God.

Over the next six weeks we're going to identify six common versions of these lies, some of the most obvious lies in our culture.

In each of these lies we pursue satisfaction in self instead of in the slow process of developing my trusting relationship with God.

Symptoms / Red Flags that I'm eating from the tree of independence.

Symptom #1. Any kind of sin and evil, is eating from the tree of independence.

Symptom #2 Desires, passions and thoughts contrary to the Holy Spirit.

Symptom #3 Anxiety, fear, worry, & control – Are indicators we're trusting in ourselves and not in God.

Symptom #4 Self-sufficiency; in our conservative culture we've prided ourselves on self-sufficiency.

Cuts us off from God and others. It makes us weak and not strong. Self-sufficiency is evil.

Matthew 4:8-10

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

Satan tempted Jesus to decide for himself instead of trusting in God. (You can have it now. You don't have to go through the process that God puts us through.)

Mark 8:33

Get behind me Satan! You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.

The way of Satan is to promote the ways of men without partnering with the ways of God.

- He wants you to get busy and not even think twice. He's happy if we just get busy and don't nurture partnership with God. If we just go down the roller coaster.
- In what area of your life have you been living without partnering?
- What area of your life (you just didn't even think about it) opening a conversation with God there?

Misconception about living from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil

- We think it produces only evil. For the prodigal son that's true.
- But the Older Son produced much good. But in the end he didn't have a relationship with His father.
- Self-sufficiency can produce evil & good. I know Atheists who are good people.
- But what it can't do is produce life.
- Religion produces good, and evil. But it doesn't produce life.
- Jesus Christ is the life giver.
- If you're disconnected from the Life Giver, there is good and evil, but there is only death.

If we're not careful, this is what we do. When we become Christians...

- We came to the tree of self-sufficiency for evil.
- After we get saved, if we're not careful, we go back to the tree of self-sufficiency to do good now instead of evil. We start looking to the law. Looking to what's right. I've got to get my life straightened out. I've got to get my theology straightened out. We start trying to impress a different set of people.
- Except now when I try to do good, I realize how bad I am at doing good. Now I'm filled with new emotions, shame, and rejection. Because I'm eating from the tree of performance and self-protection instead of Life and Relationship.

If we do one thing right, one habit, one practice...

Galatians 5:16 Live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

Learn to partner with the Spirit (that cries Dadda) **in everything!**

When we spend time in His word – Dadda!

When we spend time in Prayer – Dadda!

When we spend time in Worship – Dadda!

When we are at work – Dadda!

When we are parenting our children – Dadda!

When we're living in the mundane tasks of life – Dadda!

Ministry Time

Scriptures/Meditation