The Pursuit, Pt. 2
"The Pursuit of More…When More Is Never Enough"
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11/8/2026

1. The Trap of More

Luke 12:13-21 (NIV) *"Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions." And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry."' "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?' "This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."*

Sometimes we are desiring and asking God for more, while He is desiring us to find peace in contentment.

2. More Is a Moving Target

Ecclesiastes 5:10 (NIV) *"Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless."*

A. Materialism promises satisfaction, but only produces an appetite for more.

B. Comparison is a thief of joy.

Comparison creates dissatisfaction with blessings we once prayed to receive..

Comparison has a way of making you ungrateful for what God has given you.

Paul gives a key for a satisfied life.

Philippians 4:11-13 (NIV) *"I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength."*

Paul teaches us: Contentment is something he learned; it's not automatic.

C. Choose thankfulness for what God has blessed you with.

Ecclesiastes 6:9 (NIV) *"Better what the eye sees than the roving of the appetite. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind."*

Gauge Our Contentment:

- What do I currently have that I once prayed God would bless me with?
- Have I allowed comparison to steal my gratitude and joy?
- Am I content and thankful for God's blessing or constantly seeking after something more?

3. What You Possess Can Eventually Possess You

A. Materialism shifts our trust from God to things.

Materialism isn't determined by how much you possess. It's revealed by how much your possessions control you.

How can you tell if your possessions have too much of you?

- Do you compromise priorities to earn more or get more stuff?
- Do you sacrifice family time to maintain a lifestyle?
- Do you focus on what you don't have instead of being thankful for what you do?
- Are you reluctant to be generous because you are afraid of having less?
- Do you make financial decisions without considering God's direction?

B. The rich fool planned for retirement but neglected eternity.

Mark 8:36 (NIV) *"What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?"*

Questions to consider: What are you sacrificing today to gain something you won't be able to take with you?

4. Satisfaction Isn't Found in What You Have, But in Whom You Belong To

1 Timothy 6:6 (KJV) *"But godliness with contentment is great gain."*

Contentment is the ability to enjoy what God has given without needing more to be happy.

How do we remain content? *"Give thanks in all circumstances."* 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV)

Practical Points of Contentment:

- Choose gratitude over comparison
- Choose generosity over accumulation
- Put eternal priorities over accumulation

The richest person in the room is not the one who has the most; it is the one who has discovered that Jesus is enough.