



ENTRUSTED

WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH ALL THAT GOD'S GIVEN YOU?

Part 4: The Value of Contentment

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The words of a man to whom much had been entrusted...

ECCLESIASTES 2:4-11

⁴ I undertook great projects: I built houses for myself and planted vineyards. ⁵ I made gardens and parks and planted all kinds of fruit trees in them. ⁶ I made reservoirs to water groves of flourishing trees. ⁷ I bought male and female slaves and had other slaves who were born in my house. I also owned more herds and flocks than anyone in Jerusalem before me. ⁸ I amassed silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces. I acquired men and women singers, and a harem as well—the delights of the heart of man. ⁹ I became greater by far than anyone in Jerusalem before me. In all this my wisdom stayed with me.

¹⁰ I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure. My heart took delight in all my work, and this was the reward for all my labor. ¹¹ Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun.

The purpose of teaching stewardship is not to get your money; it's to ensure that your money doesn't get you.

One key stewardship question that must be answered today:

What do I value?

Why should I value contentment?

1. Content people know when to say enough!

Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless. – Ecclesiastes 5:10

2. Content people know that contentment comes from the inside out, not the outside in.

¹¹ I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. ¹² 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. ¹³ I can do everything through him who gives me strength. – Philippians 4:11-13

Content people:

Avoid comparisons (4:11)

Adjust to change (4:12)

Apply God's power (4:13)

3. Content people know the traps of financial "independence."

But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷ For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. ⁸ But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. ⁹ People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. – 1 Timothy 6:6-10

The Giving Style of God

When God gave, he gave sacrificially

When God gave, he gave completely

When God gave, he gave ultimately

Small Group Questions

- 1) We had "summer" for three days last week! What did you do to celebrate?
- 2) Tom Brady and Solomon built dynasties in their own way. What can you learn from two people who had everything but were not content? What are the lessons?
- 3) What do you value? Why?
- 4) How do you battle the enemy of comparison in your life? Has comparison negatively affected you?
- 5) Have you ever had to say enough? What did God do in your heart in that moment?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?