



SEASONS

Seasons Series

Part 3

October 16, 2022

The Gospel of Saint Matthew 6:25-34, ²⁵ “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? ²⁸ And why are you

anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin,²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?³¹ Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'³² For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.³⁴ "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble." May the Lord add His blessing to the Reading and the Hearing of His Word Today, in Jesus Name, Amen...

Last Sunday we continued our series "Seasons" series during which we discussed how Seasons of Change can be Seasons of Refreshing and Rejuvenation. Every season comes with Giants in the Land and Giant Rewards as well! But with every season, we must make the decision to be content and see the need of a spirit of contentment. For some, contentment may equate settling and not pursuing greatness but this is not what I am implying.

What I am suggesting is that being content does not mean settling but rather embracing the process of each season and gaining an insight that values each change rather than disdaining it. So with that said, Point #1...

1. The Seasons of our Lives are meant to be embraced with contentment and not disregarded due to discontentment

- a. The Apostle Paul modeled this principle found in his words recorded in Philippians chapter 4...
- b. Philippians 4:10-13, ¹⁰“I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. ¹¹Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. ¹²I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. ¹³I can do all things through him who strengthens me.”
- c. I have heard some believers quote Philippians 4:13 but far too often it is used well beyond its original context. The context of verse 13 is found in verses 10 - 13...

- d. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me because no matter what I encounter, I can endure it because I have found contentment in His strength and provision; Paul refused to build his contentment on his comfort but rather on Christ. Paul was willing to choose contentment in every season.
- e. Note the words written, “¹¹Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. ¹²I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.”
- f. And was Paul’s secret that he noted in verse 12? His secret was shared in verse 13...
- g. I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need! It is Christ’s strength that sustains Paul’s contentment and He, through Christ, could endure any season.
- h. Remember, The Seasons of our Lives are meant to be embraced with contentment and not disregarded with discontentment
- i. Point #2...

2. The Seasons of our Lives are Not meant to be Spent trying to Live in Someone else's Season!

- a. The Gospel of Saint Luke 12:13-15, ¹³ “Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” ¹⁴ But he said to him, “Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?” ¹⁵ And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”
- b. Jesus instructs us in verse 15 to guard ourselves from covetousness and may I suggest that if we are content with where we are then we will not covet where we are not.
- c. In Exodus 20:17 and Deuteronomy 5:21, the instruction given from Moses to the Nation of Israel is simply this... Deuteronomy 5:21 records the following, ²¹ “And you shall not covet your neighbor's wife. And you shall not desire your neighbor's house, his field, or his male servant, or his female servant, his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.”
- d. Both of these recordings are found in the outline of the Ten Commandments and it was the Lord bringing order to the nation with speaking to their need for contentment and not fall victim to covetousness and discontentment.

- e. Please receive this warning with the right heart today... Do not covet your neighbor's season because you don't know the price they paid to enter that season.
- f. Covetousness always leads to competition; choose to be content and not compete. And in the competition, who chooses who wins?
- g. Do not live for another man's season
 - i. Do not wear another man's armor to win a war
 - 1. David / Saul
 - ii. Do not bear another man's identity to get a blessing
 - 1. Jacob and Esau
- h. Find contentment with the blessings that God has bestowed in this season!
- i. The writer of Hebrews wrote the following words found in Hebrews 13:5-8, **“⁵Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” ⁶So we can confidently say, “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?” ⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”**

- j. Church, we must keep our lives free and choose contentment; stuff can be a blessing but we must never find our contentment in the stuff.
- k. Contentment and Rest – Sabbath; healthy perspective in life.
- l. Remember, The Seasons of our Lives are not meant to be spent trying to live in someone else’s Season!
- m. In closing, Point #3...

3. The Seasons of our Lives will always change but Contentment in each Season brings great gain to our Eternity!

- a. Church family, Godliness with contentment in this life is great gain and is necessary to our faith development on this side of eternity as well as on the other side!
- b. 1 Timothy 6:6-10, “⁶But godliness with contentment is great gain, ⁷for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. ⁸But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. ⁹But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that

some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.”

- c. The blessing of contentment is that every gift and season of life is viewed as a blessing and not a curse. And when we are content, stuff is truly a blessing and not a reward. (Content with an old tractor)
- d. When we are content with the call of God, we are content to serve in our call where ever we find ourselves. When we are content in the call, it becomes less about stature, title, placement, and influence; but rather our content in the call removes the lust for said things.
- e. (Content in my Call and Position)
- f. When we are content in our call, our walk with Christ, and our view of life in general, we realize that godliness with content is truly a great gain. Contentment in Christ causes us to Pursue His Presence and not Pursue the things of this world.
- g. Remember, The Seasons of our Lives will always change but Contentment in each Season brings great gain to our Eternity!