

MAIN POINT

Contentment is a choice to find value in Jesus rather than possessions.

INTRODUCTION

How do you define contentment? In your own experiences, what have you discovered to be the key to contentment?

In what circumstances do you most typically struggle to be content? Why? Are there any recurring themes for you?

One of the greatest challenges we face as we strive to be serious followers of Jesus is the struggle for contentment in a materialistic society. In order to understand true contentment, we have to reject the notion that contentment has anything to do with accumulating material possessions. Contentment is a choice.

DISCUSSION

> **READ 1 TIMOTHY 6:6-10, 17.**

Read Philippians 4:11-13. What similarities do you see between this passage and 1 Timothy 6:6-10?

Why do people believe material possessions will bring contentment? How does Paul's view of contentment compare with the modern world's view of contentment?

When we struggle to be content, what are we saying about our view of God and our relationship with Him?

Read Philippians 4:13 again. What made Paul's contentment possible? What do you think that contentment looks like in real life?

How does godliness relate to contentment? What are some ways we can strive for godliness?

What do you think is the "great gain in godliness with contentment" (v. 6)?

Define greed. What triggers greed? Describe the snowball effect it has on us.

Unpack verse 10. What sticks out to you most from that verse?

How have you witnessed greed affecting people you know, both Christians and non-Christians? How has it affected you?

Replacing greed with gratitude is the pathway to contentment. What do you have to be grateful for? How do Paul's words to Timothy and the Philippians help you apply this to your life?

Think about Jesus' time on earth. How did He model contentment for us? What can we learn from Him?

APPLICATION

In this week's message we considered two reasons that many of us don't feel rich: no margin and discontentment. Where are these things evident in your life? What needs to change?