



## Part 4: The Value of Contentment

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# ENTRUSTED

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

### **ECCLESIASTES 2:4-11**

<sup>4</sup> I undertook great projects: I built houses for myself and planted vineyards. <sup>5</sup> I made gardens and parks and planted all kinds of fruit trees in them. <sup>6</sup> I made reservoirs to water groves of flourishing trees. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> I became greater by far than anyone in Jerusalem before me. In all this my wisdom stayed with me.

<sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> 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.

<sup>11</sup> I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. <sup>8</sup> But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> 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?