

Contentment

Sunday PM 11/21/21

Introduction:

Sheryl Crow song:

“Life in The Sun”

My friend the communist
Holds meetings in his RV
I can't afford his gas
So I'm stuck here watching tv

I don't have digital
I don't have diddly squat
**It's not having what you want
It's wanting what you've got**

I'm gonna soak up the sun
I'm gonna tell everyone
To lighten up
I'm gonna tell 'em that
I've got no one to blame
For every time I feel lame
I'm looking up

I'm gonna soak up the sun
I'm gonna soak up the sun

We want to talk about contentment. We live in a time of prosperity but people often complain about what they haven't got. The happiest people I know are those who are grateful and content. Enemies of contentment are envy, covetousness, and greed. Contentment is defined as the state of being [contented](#); satisfaction; ease of mind. Not to be confused with complacency but a sense of serenity.

I) Saul a Discontented King

A) David and Goliath, *1 Samuel 17*

1. David kills Goliath.

1 Samuel 17:48 So it was, when the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, that David hastened and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine. **49** Then David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone; and he slung it and struck the Philistine in his forehead, so that the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the earth.

2. Resulting in David receiving praise from the people.

1 Samuel 18:6 Now it had happened as they were coming home, when David was returning from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women had come out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with joy, and with musical instruments. **7** So the women sang as they danced, and said: "Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands." **8** Then Saul was very angry, and the saying displeased him; and he said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed only thousands. Now what more can he have but the kingdom?" **9** So Saul eyed David from that day forward.

3. Saul's way of interpreting this was to see David as a threat to his rule from this point onward.
4. In fact Saul became an enemy of David to the point to trying to kill David.

1 Samuel 18:11 And Saul cast the spear, for he said, "I will pin David to the wall!" But David escaped his presence twice.

B) Saul lacked contentment

1. Saul had a lot to be happy about: he is the king, a "big" enemy of Israel was gone, this was just one military victory for David while Saul had many victories.
2. If he had just given all praise to God Saul would have been content.

1 Samuel 17:46 *"This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.*

3. Have you known of people who were like King Saul? We need to be content in our life.

II) What We Have

A) When we get greedy for things of this world, bad things happen.

1. Jesus spoke of contentment in the Sermon on the Mount.
2. Paul spoke of its blessings.

1 Timothy 6:6 *Now godliness with contentment is great gain.*

3. Contentment is not always easy.

Philippians 4:12 *I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. **13** I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*

B) A life without contentment

1. Our yearnings and dissatisfaction bring us harm.

1 Timothy 6:9 *But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. **10** For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*

2. We read of those who seemingly have everything but are not content.

3. Article in Readers Digest of women who serve the elite. Her observation was they were about the same as everybody else.
 - a. Money doesn't buy happiness, it can create hardships.

III) Application- We Need To Be Content

A) With the recognition we receive.

1. Everyone has at one time or another felt as if others received praise which was due them.
2. Don't be jealous.

1 Peter 2:1 Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, 2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,
3. Resentment, envy brings misery.

Proverbs 14:30 A sound heart is life to the body, But envy is rottenness to the bones.
4. Harry S Truman Quotes ... It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit.

B) Who We Are With

1. Be content with your spouse. Marriages often break up because somebody gets a wandering eye.
2. Worldly philosophy – find someone else if you are not happy.
3. Bible says there is only one cause for divorce.

Luke 16:18 "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced from her husband commits adultery.
4. You need to respect the marriage vows you took.

Hebrews 13:4 Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

5. Work on yourself- and find joy in your marriage.

C) How we worship

1. Saul decided to change worship for expediency.

1 Samuel 13:9-So Saul said, "Bring a burnt offering and peace offerings here to me." And he offered the burnt offering. **10** Now it happened, as soon as he had finished presenting the burnt offering, that Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might greet him. **11** And Samuel said, "What have you done?" And Saul said, "When I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered together at Michmash, **12** "then I said, 'The Philistines will now come down on me at Gilgal, and I have not made supplication to the LORD.' Therefore I felt compelled, and offered a burnt offering." **13** And Samuel said to Saul, "You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the LORD your God, which He commanded you. For now the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. **14** "But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be commander over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you."

2. People often want something more convenient, more what they want. But what we want and what God wants might be different.

John 4:24 "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

3. We have to let God decide how we worship.
4. Saul changed the pattern and it cost him the kingdom.

D) With where we are going

1. Problem of the Israelites.

- a. God had brought them out of Egypt to Mount Sinai.

Acts 7:38 *"This is he who was in the congregation in the wilderness with the Angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our fathers, the one who received the living oracles to give to us, 39 "whom our fathers would not obey, but rejected. And in their hearts they turned back to Egypt, 40 "saying to Aaron, 'Make us gods to go before us; as for this Moses who brought us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.' 41 "And they made a calf in those days, offered sacrifices to the idol, and rejoiced in the works of their own hands.*

- b. God was taking them to Canaan but their hearts were still in Egypt.

2. Some obey the Gospel but their hearts are still in the world.
3. We must be content living and serving God.

Hebrews 13:5 *Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."*

Conclusion:

As we travel down the pathway of life there comes the reality of how temporary things are. Of the importance of the soul, and how blessed we are to have the goal of heaven before us. Never take your eye off the prize.