

FINDING SHELTER

Lost, Part 4

October 17th, 2010

The problem with discontent is it's an appetite that's never fully and finally satisfied

In our culture everyday you are exposed to the stuff you don't have

When you feed an appetite, it grows. The same is true of stuff – the more you have, the more you want

Your discontentment has the potential to drive you into Financial ruin

Discontentment can be used for good

Discontentment should be handled the way you would most any appetite - acknowledge it and re-focus it

1 Timothy 6:6-8 (NIV) "But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that."

We are often not content with the basic necessities of life

1 Timothy 6:9 (NIV) "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."

People who don't learn contentment set themselves up for some specialized temptations

1 Timothy 6:10 (NIV) "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."

"love of money" – prioritize the pursuit of money above other things

If you have more than you need, you have the potential to walk away from your faith because of money

1 Timothy 6:11 (NIV) "But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness."

The temptation is to pursue all the things you can provide for yourself with your extra

We are to take our extra time & money and pursue something different with it

1 Timothy 6:17 (NIV) "Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment."

It's okay to enjoy the things God has blessed you with but don't make that your main concern. You are to pursue something different.

1 Timothy 6:18 (NIV) "Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share."

Use your extra time and money to intentionally and purposefully do good things for others

1 Timothy 6:19 (NIV) "In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life."

The temptation is to take hold of a life that isn't even a life

There is a way to share, be generous, and do good deeds so that even in this life, you will experience what it really means to live

Intentional, planned, and strategic generosity is what bridles/controls discontentment and keeps our discontentment from driving us to all kinds of unhealthy directions

We are constantly made aware of what we don't have, but we have to go out of our way to become aware of what others don't have & need

We must intentionally make some decisions that bring our life into an awareness of what others need

Awareness pumps up our sense of generosity

Your mind is taken from what you don't have to what others genuinely need

This doesn't happen naturally – you must investigate, learn things and then get involved

As your awareness grows, your generosity grows and so does your contentment

Without planned, percentage generosity, you and I will be victims of discontentment, with an appetite in us for bigger, better, more

When you take your extra and do something for someone else, you'll be better off financially, someone else will be better off financially, and God's Kingdom will be more fully funded

My Next Step Today Is...

- I will intentionally investigate to discover where the needs are in my world
- I will battle my discontentment by being rich in good deeds toward those in need
- I will attend Class 101–Introduction to Life at New Hope on Sun, Oct 31 @ 1 pm w/Pastor Russ
- I/we/my family will participate in Faith in Action on Sunday, November 14th from 1 to 4 pm