

# The Gift of Contentment

*Promise: by his gifts we can remain content awaiting the kingdom*

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Ecc 5:10-20; Psa 119:9-16; Heb 4:1-13; [Mark 10:23-31](#)

(Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost, 10/17/21)

*And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!"* – v. 23

**Lead In** – A favorite Musical of mine also made into a movie is 'Fiddler on the Roof'. In the film version that came out in 1971, the lead character named Tevye was played by Topol. Tevye was a poor Jewish milkman living in Anatevka, who is faced with the challenge of marrying off his five daughters amidst the growing tension in the village. And one of the most memorable songs comes early on by Tevye... I suppose at some level we can all identify with Tevye...

## I. Why Earthly Wealth Is Not the Treasure We Think

- A. Like all false gods, it does not deliver its promises!
- B. It increases our anxieties and worries...
- C. Useful tool, but a demanding god...

## II. Things That Make It Difficult to Enter the Kingdom

- A. Let's be clear, it is our sinful rebellion that matters...
- B. The consistent attitude towards wealth!
- C. In response to question *Then who can be saved?*

## III. For All Things Are Possible With God

- A. We ask for too little, not too much!
- B. His atoning death give greatest riches imaginable...
- C. If only we knew what we asked in the Lord's Prayer!

**Parting Shot** – Godliness with contentment is a great gift to be treasured in this life. And it is a gift. For it is only in Christ that we become righteous. And it is only in his promises with the aid of the spirit that we recognize our true citizenship and the unbelievable inheritance of his kingdom. And I will promise you this: This kingdom that we will share in with its wealth beyond anything we can imagine is not yet the prize. The true prize is the Bridegroom, the Lord Jesus himself, not all the incredible wealth that will surround us. That wealth will just magnify the incomparable worth of Christ himself and our living in communion with the Triune God.

"Oh, Lord, you made many, many poor people I realize, of course, it's no shame to be poor But it's no great honor either!

So, what would have been so terrible if I had a small fortune?"

Lord, who made the lion and the lamb  
You decreed I should be what I am  
Would it spoil some vast eternal plan  
If I were a wealthy man?

**Ec 5:10-11** He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity. When goods increase, they increase who eat them, and what advantage has their owner but to see them with his eyes?

**Mt 6:19** "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal."

## Mark 10:17-27 ESV

*The Rich Young Man*

<sup>23</sup>And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" <sup>24</sup>And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup>It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." <sup>26</sup>And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, "Then who can be saved?" <sup>27</sup>Jesus looked at them and said, "With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God." <sup>28</sup>Peter began to say to him, "See, we have left everything and followed you." <sup>29</sup>Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, <sup>30</sup>who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life. <sup>31</sup>But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

**Mt 6:24** "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money"

**1Ti 6:9-10** But 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. For 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.

**1Ti 6:6-7** But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world.

**Ph 4:11-13** Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. ... I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

**2Co 8:9** For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

**Lk 12:32** "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

**Ph 3:14** I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

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