

EIBC Devotional #8 - “Contentment”

Emerald Isle Baptist Church

Pastor Zach Emory

Question for Reflection

What do you *need* that you do not have? What do you *want*?

Scripture - Matthew 6:25, 31-34

25 “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Isn't life more than food, and the body more than clothes?

31 So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

During the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus reminds us that our anxieties for the future, our senseless strivings, and our discontent are pointless. First, God already knows all of our needs and wants and will take care of us. Second, worrying about it will do nothing for us besides adding more stress. Third, if we seek God, all of our needs and desires will be met because our needs and desires will be transformed. Jesus reminds us that the most important possessions we can acquire is faith and righteousness. It is easy in our current culture of social media and endless bombardment with advertisements to worry about the mundane things of life—food, clothes, earthly possessions. As Christians, we are called to be different and desire more than what the world has to offer. I am reminded of this quote by C.S. Lewis from his book *The Weight of Glory*: “It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.” All we need—all we *truly* need—is a relationship with God, and the rest follows.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, please forgive us for our discontent. Forgive us for desiring the things of the world rather than spiritual things. Remind us that You will meet our every need and desire if we seek You and Your Kingdom first. In the name of our Lord, Amen.