

“Dealing With Discontentment”

Morning Inspiration with Pastor Byron Stevenson – March 5, 2018

Scripture: [Matthew 20:1-15](#), [1 Samuel 8:5-20](#), [Numbers 11:4-6](#), [Hebrews 13:5-6](#)

Summary: Discontent is one of the major issues of the world today. One of the major causes of discontent is comparison.

1. Discontentment is one of the biggest problems that human beings face today.
 - a. Discontentment is to be dissatisfied, restless desire or craving for something that you don't have.
 - b. Spouses get discontent with each other and divorces happen.
 - c. Children get discontent with parents and move away.
 - d. Congregation members get discontent with their pastors and churches break up or new denominations are born.
 - e. Pastors get discontent with congregations and congregations split.
 - f. Voters get discontent with the government and elect the opposition to power only to find that things are no better, or even worse.
 - g. We have heard the saying “grass is greener on the other side”.
2. Causes of Discontentment
 - a. There is this constant craving for something that we don't have.
 - b. Adam and Eve craved for the taste of the forbidden fruit, thought they had access to everything else.
 - c. David craved for the company someone else's wife, though the Lord had given him everything.
3. The Comparison Problem.
 - a. We are constantly comparing what is dealt out to us against what others get. We then naturally feel that “I deserve better”.
 - b. Comparison with others, what others have, what others get, what others do, what others say, is one of the major root causes of discontentment.
 - c. **We hardly ever ask the question, “Am I getting what is promised to me? Am I getting what I deserve?”** Instead, we keep looking at what others are getting and then become discontent about it, immaterial of what we have, immaterial of what we get.
4. Numbers 11:4-6 (NKJV)
 - a. “Now the mixed multitude who were among them yielded to intense craving; so the children of Israel also wept again and said: "Who will give us meat to eat? We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; but now our whole being is dried up; there is nothing at all except this manna before our eyes!"
 - b. Sometimes we become so consumed in our fleshly desires and ambitions that we forget what God has already done... It didn't matter that...

- i. the Lord God had brought them out of slavery,
- ii. the Lord parted the Red sea in front of them and allowed them to cross over on dry land,
- iii. that the Lord struck down the entire army of the Pharaoh who were chasing them,
- iv. that the Lord was continuously protecting them from alien nations around them,
- v. that they were mere slaves when they were in Egypt,
- vi. that the Lord provided food from heavens for them in the wilderness
- vii. **All that mattered to them was the fact that they had been eating fish and meat regularly when they were in Egypt and they were not getting the same now that they were out of Egypt.** [YOU DON'T KNOW HOW BLESSED YOU ARE]

5. Comparison will lead to discontentment.

- a. We start comparing our present conditions to past glory, "it was so much better in the past" ...

6. Is it wrong to be discontented?

- a. Before we try to answer that question, let us clarify, that hoping for better things by itself is not discontentment.
- b. Jesus himself asked his disciples to look forward to better things. John 14:1-4, Luke 10:18-20.
- c. **It becomes discontentment when we are bitter about the present and complain about the present, while coveting for something else.**
- d. When we have an encounter with God, we obey Him. Discontentment is exactly the opposite of this. Discontentment is disobeying God. It is against the 10th commandment which says "you shall not covet".
 - i. Discontentment means distrusting God. It means that subtly we believe that God made mistake. So, yes, it is wrong to be discontented.

The best advice comes from Paul Philipians 4:11-13 (NKJV) "Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: 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. **I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.**"