

SEARCHING FOR SATISFACTION

Luke 12:22-31

I. TRIVIAL PURSUIT

- A. *“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat, nor about your body, what you shall put on. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing.” (Luke 12:23-24)*
- B. A Parable of Contentment.
 - 1. All day we are bombarded with the message that we are discontented, *but* contentment is just one step away: “use me, buy me, eat me, wear me, try me, drive me ...”
 - 2. We live longer, eat better, work less and play more than ever before in the history of the human race, but are we happier?
- C. Vanity of Vanities.
 - 1. *“All is vanity. What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun?” (Ecclesiastes 1:3)*
 - 2. “I can’t get no satisfaction ... But I try and I try and I try...”
 - 3. We should stop searching for infinite satisfaction from finite objects.

II. A CULTURE OF COMPLAINT

- A. God’s Discontented People.
 - 1. It was a major theme in the life of Israel.
 - 2. For four hundred years they had dreamed of liberty and then God intervened miraculously and it happened.
 - 3. Were they happy? Were they satisfied? “And the people *complained* against Moses, saying, ‘What shall we drink?’” (Exodus.15:24)
 - 4. *“Would that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate bread to the full; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.” (Exodus 16:3)*
- B. Symptoms of the Disease:
 - 1. You are bored or dissatisfied with your job.
 - 2. You are disappointed with your relationships.
 - 3. You try to escape through watching TV, shopping, alcohol or drugs.
 - 4. You resent those who seem to have a more pleasant life.
- C. Three Options:
 - 1. Go through life grumbling. Wait for something or someone to *make* you grateful or happy or satisfied.
 - 2. Keep looking for little happiness fixes. “This is designed to distract us from the emptiness we feel ... This requires daily, sometimes hourly, fixes ...” (Neil Warren)
 - 3. *“Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things shall be yours as well.” (Luke 12:31)*

Prayer Concerns: *Members* – Burney Biesel, Steve Bryant, J.W. Davis, Marie Davis, Donna Edwards, Leona Evans, Irene Kiefer, Fay McDowell, Carolyn Perkins, Carol Webb ... ***Friends*** – Melinda Banks, Bobby Borden, Pat Bryan, Alma Jo Churchill, Deborah Criswell, Doyle Davis, John Fumbanks, Jere Gifford, Joanna Grathwell, Gary Hinson, Bob Holder, Branden Hurst, Betty Murray, Linda Petrie, Violet Stout, Mike Thompson, Steven Wachtler, Owen Walker, Durward Webb, Janet Willis ...

PASTORAL PRAYER

O loving God, you have set our hearts aflame with the spirit of life, and we praise your name for high moments of joy, for times when believing is easy, when we feel so strongly that life counts for something, and that our little efforts count for something, too.

But we come remembering those times when the flame has gone out, when the same tasks had to be done yet another time, and we can't really see that it makes much difference in this world whether we do them or not. O Lord, in the depth of these times, remind us that the mountain top moments are still there. Call us back to the freshness of marriages just begun, of vocational choices just made, of knowledge just acquired, of songs heard for the first time.

O God, when the flame does die, and we just quit caring, bring us face to face with those whose problems are so much greater than our own. Let it be our compassion that shakes us awake, and rekindles our spirits, for this is our prayer in the name of Christ, our Lord, who taught us to pray ...

THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

LUKE 12:22-31 (NIV)

Then Jesus said to his disciples: “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. Life is more than food and the body more than clothes. Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?”

“Consider how the lilies grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well...”

SERMON SCHEDULE

In the Sanctuary:

September 30	<i>Don't Quench the Fire</i>	Luke 12:49-56
October 7	<i>Everyone's Invited</i>	Luke 14:1,7-14
	Worldwide Communion	
October 14	<i>Counting the Cost</i>	Luke 14:25-33
October 21	<i>How to Get Rich</i>	Mark 10:17-31
	Stewardship Season Begins	

On the Radio (1450 AM):

September 30	<i>Just Say No!</i>	Genesis 39
October 7	<i>Learning How to Wait</i>	Genesis 40