

The Holy Discontent

INTRODUCTION

Contentment is an acquired skill. When we understanding that all of our longing has always been for Him, God will be the one to say “more.” More of who He is, and for all eternity will never plumb the depths of who He is. We are not God; we should stop trying to be...because only then will we find true contentment for our souls.

DISCUSSION

In what ways are you not content in what God has provided?

EXPLANATION (Philippians 4:11-13)

If you had all the money on the world, what are the top 5 things you would do?

If you lost everything you own, in what ways would it be a relief?

How could understanding these two extremes lead to more contentment?

APPLICATION (Matthew 6:9)

Do you understand that God has given us what we need for a life of faith and Godliness?

Explain it as best you can.

So, what does a life of faith look like?

MISSION

Read Matt 18:21-35.

How does forgiveness for others reflect a life that is content in God’s grace?

If you had to put a number of the times God has forgiven you...could you do it?

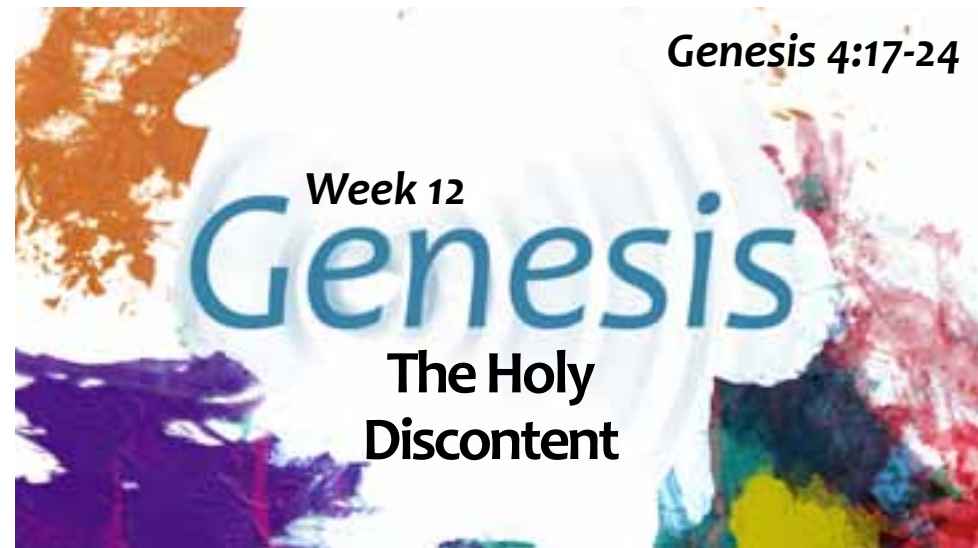
Why is it so hard to emulate God in our forgiveness of others?

How do you ‘forgive from your heart?’

Week 12

FAMILY & GROUP DISCUSSION

Genesis 4:17-24



Luke 17:3-4

Exodus 20:5

Deuteronomy 5:9

Exodus 34:6-7

Ezekiel 18:20

Genesis 4:17-24

1 Timothy 3:2

Colossians 3:5

Matthew 6:9

Philippians 4:11-13

Matthew 18:21-22

NOTES & SCRIPTURE

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Week 12

SERMON OUTLINE

The Holy Discontent

Luke 17:3-4 “Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, ‘I repent,’ you must forgive him.”

Seven generations after Cain we come to a man named **Lamech**. **Lamech's** immediate descendants are associated with animal breeding, music, and metal work.

Cain has shown remorse before God about his sin, and God restores Cain to a new family. But, even though God blesses Cain, he is still a messed up man who probably reverts to his old ways and his sin gets passed on to his family. In Exodus 20:5, Deuteronomy 5:9, and Exodus 34:6-7, God says the iniquity of the fathers will fall onto the children. This means that when a father misleads his family, the effects of that misleading are often felt for generations. A father who abuses his wife or kids usually have kids who grow up hating him but turn out the same way.

Because the father has been covenantally unfaithful to the trust God has given him, God has stipulated that there are punishments for this breaking the covenant; this cycle can last for generations. But, God does offer hope...In Ezekiel 18:20, God tells us *“The person who sins will die. The son will not bear the punishment for the father’s iniquity, nor will the father bear the punishment for the son’s iniquity; the righteousness of the righteous will be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked will be upon himself.”*

When we get to Lamech we see first recorded incident of polygamy:

Lamech has 2 wives...

- **Adah** means “**adorned one**” – literally her name translates as “ornament.”
- **Zillah** means “**shadow**” – She “tempts from the shadows”

Lamech's means “pauper.” “One who is extremely poor.” Lamech works hard and buys himself out of poverty and into what he deems is a new life that he can control.

We live in what social theorist Greg Easterbrook calls “abundance denial,” in

which millions of men and women construct elaborate mental rationales for considering themselves materially deprived and, in so doing, only succeed in increasing their unhappiness.

- *In the last 30 years, people/families who have 2 cars has increased almost 500%.*
- *In the last 30 years, people/families with more than 1 TV in the home has increased almost 2,000%.*
- *In the last 30 years, people/families with more than one phone has increased 5,000%.*

A Gallup poll showed that Americans believe that 21 percent of Americans are rich, but only 0.5 percent said they, themselves, were rich.

EVERYBODY THINKS HE NEEDS ONE THING TO MAKE HIMSELF RICH: MORE. Study after study shows a shockingly low correlation between wealth and happiness.

The world in which we live sells what nobody needs. But the problem of the human heart is: we need what nobody sells. By understanding that there is a reason we are not completely satisfied with all this world has to offer we may come to the realization: we were made for more than this world.

Materialism is, for most of us, God’s main rival. This is why the apostle Paul reminds us to BE CONTENT. Contentment does not come when we acquire enough; it is a product of God working in us, the surrender of ourselves to him. *Phil 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 know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.”*

Contentment is an acquired skill. When we understanding that all of our longing has always been for Him, God will be the one to say “more.” More of who He is, and for all eternity will never plumb the depths of who He is. We are not God; we should stop trying to be...because only then will we find true contentment for our souls.

Baptisms TODAY @ 1pm

1371 Solomon Road

<http://g.co/maps/t9tp2>

