

“FINDING SHELTER”
Lost, Part 4
October 25th & 28th, 2018

Have you ever discovered you needed something because you saw someone with it – that’s **DISCONTENTMENT**. The problem with discontent is it’s an appetite that’s never fully and finally **SATISFIED**. In our culture every day you are exposed to the stuff you **DON’T HAVE**. When you feed an appetite, it grows. The same is true of stuff – the more you have, the more you **WANT**. Your discontentment has the potential to drive you into **FINANCIAL** ruin. Discontentment can be used for **GOOD**. The material discontentment that wreaks havoc with our peace and budgets is simply a **MISDIRECTED** appetite or drive. Discontentment should be handled the way you would most any appetite – **ACKNOWLEDGE** it and **REDIRECT** it.

1 Timothy 6:6-8 (NIV) “But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.”

1 Timothy 6:9 (NIV) “People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction.”

People who don’t learn contentment set themselves up for some **SPECIALIZED TEMPTATIONS**.

1 Timothy 6:10 (NIV) “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.” “love of money” – you **PRIORITIZE** the pursuit of money above other things; consider what you are willing to **SACRIFICE** for it. If you have more than you need, you have the potential to walk away from your **RELATIONSHIP** with Christ because of money.

1 Timothy 6:11 (NIV) “But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.”

The temptation is to pursue all the things you can provide for yourself with your **EXTRA**. We are to take our extra time & money and **PURSUE** something **DIFFERENT** with it.

1 Timothy 6:17 (NIV) “Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.” It’s okay to **ENJOY** the things God has blessed you with but don’t make that your main **CONCERN**. You are to pursue something different.

1 Timothy 6:18 (NIV) “Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.” Command: Do **GOOD** – others **FIRST**.

1 Timothy 6:19 (NIV) “In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.”

The temptation is to take hold of a life that isn't even a LIFE. There is a way to share, be generous, and do good deeds so that even in this life, you will experience what it really means to LIVE, INTENTIONAL, PLANNED, and STRATEGIC generosity is what bridles/controls discontentment and keeps our discontentment from driving us to all kinds of unhealthy directions. We are constantly made aware of what we DON'T HAVE, but we have to go out of our way to become aware of what OTHERS don't have & need. We must INTENTIONALLY make some decisions that bring our life into an AWARENESS of what others need. Awareness pumps up our sense of GENEROSITY. Your mind is taken from what you don't have to what others GENUINELY need. This doesn't happen naturally – you must investigate, learn things and then get INVOLVED. As your awareness grows, your GENEROSITY grows and so does your CONTENTMENT. Without planned, percentage generosity, you and I will be VICTIMS of discontentment, with an appetite in us for bigger, better, more. When you take your extra and do something for someone else, YOU will be better off financially, someone else will be better off financially, and God's Kingdom will be more fully FUNDED.

My Next Step Today Is...

- I will intentionally investigate to discover where the needs are in my world
- I will battle my discontentment by being rich in good deeds toward those in need
- I will sign-up for some of the financial seminars being offered at New Hope (see insert)

Next Week: Join us as we discuss God's counter-cultural wisdom for our money. Invite a friend!!!