

THE DISCIPLINES OF LIFE SERIES  
DEVELOPING A LIFESTYLE THAT'S USABLE TO GOD

TAPE NUMBER WNX-524    DECEMBER 15, 2010

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

**THE DISCIPLINE OF DISCONTENTMENT**

*A PRACTICAL SERIES ON CHRISTIAN DISCIPLINES  
AND HOW WE SHOULD BE LIVING IN THE WORLD AROUND US*

**Week 22 of a 31-Week Series**

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

**Christianity 101, Faith, Discernment, Discipleship**

**Introduction to the Text;**

**Hebrews 13:5**

**The Theme and Textual Summation of the Passage**

THE DISCIPLINES OF LIFE SERIES  
AND THE DISCIPLINES OF DISCONTENTMENT  
DEVELOPING A SPIRITUAL LIFESTYLE THAT'S USABLE TO GOD

**Matt. 28:18-20**

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "**All authority** has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **:19 Go therefore and make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **:20 teaching them to observe all things** that I have commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the world."

**Heb. 13:5**

Let your conduct be without covetousness; be **content** with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

**DISCONTENTMENT**, n.

Webster defines it as - The state of being uneasy in mind; an uneasiness.

*The Absence of contentment. to be unsettled or restless on mind and soul.  
A sense of being dissatisfied. A person unable to find rest, a comfortless individual.*

## **The Timing of This is of God – It's Christmas !**

**Most of us, being human's – we're not living "in that place" that we were created to live in. We've been made to live in the presences of God.**

**We're kind of like that little boy who...**

Listening to his dad pray, *"father we now enter into your presents, we sense you presence Lord and we need your presents, so Lord please give us your presents"* at that Johnny just could not take anymore of it and said – *"when? When are we going to get these presents daddy?"*

**It is true that God made our original mom and dad perfect,** we struggle with a distant connection with Adam and eve, that why we long for perfection and satisfaction and contentment. This is true because the world which once was, was said by God to be 'very good'.

**Rom. 8:20**

**"For the creation was subjected to futility,"**  
*(man and creation was instantly placed in a state or mode of death and decay)*

## **The "Context" of Your Life Determines Whether Discontentment is bad or good.**

*But there are two sorts of discontentment. There is a spiritual discontentment and a carnal discontentment.*

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## **THE DISCIPLINE OF DISCONTENTMENT**

**1.) Recognize that physical discontentment can be bad**

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### Prov. 27:20

Hell and Destruction are never full; So the eyes of man are never satisfied.

### James 4:1-3

What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? :2 You want something but don't get it. **You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want.** You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. :3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

### Matt. 27:3-5

Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, :4 saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." ¶ And they said, "What *is that* to us? You see *to it!*" :5 Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself.

**There's a Great Emptiness & Frustration  
That is naturally connected to material things.  
(material things are not bad or evil – it's a heart issue)**

### Mic. 6:13b-15

"...because of your sins. :14 You will eat, but not be satisfied... :15 "You will sow, but not reap; You will tread the olives, but not anoint yourselves with oil; And you will make sweet wine, but not drink any of it.

### Prov. 13:11

Wealth *gained by* dishonesty will be diminished,

## **Here's The Fix**

(ask the Lord now for a grateful heart and mind)

### Hos. 10:12

Sow for yourselves righteousness; Reap in mercy; Break up your fallow ground, For *it is* time to seek the LORD, Till He comes and rains righteousness on you.

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# THE DISCIPLINE OF DISCONTENTMENT

## 2.) Recognize that **physical discontentment** can be **good**

### 1Sam. 22:1-2

David therefore departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam. So when his brothers and all his father's house heard *it*, they went down there to him. :2 And everyone *who was* in distress, everyone who was in debt, and everyone *who was* **discontented** gathered to him. So he became captain over them. And there were about four hundred men with him...

*(these all became David's mighty men of valor – Israeli Special Forces)*

**discontented** מַר **mar**, *mar*; or (feminine) מַרָּה **marsh**, *maw-raw'*; filled with bitterness, filled with anger, a great and heavy burden.

### When someone awakens to the fact that

*materialism cannot satisfy – nor can people, places or things,  
there is a real crisis of the soul that takes place...*

*Middle Aged Men Go Thru This Shock – Turning Into Idiots with Gold Chains.*

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### 1Tim. 6:6-10

Now godliness with contentment is great gain. :7 For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out. :8 **And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.** 1Tim. 6:9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. :10 For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of* evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

**content** ἀρκέω **arkeo**, *ar-keh'-o*:

to be in the state of contentment, to have enough, suffice.

## Here's What You're Gonna Want To Keep Doing

**Heb. 13:14**

For here we have no continuing city, but we **seek** the one to come.

**Psa. 16:11**

You will show me the path of life; In Your presence *is* fullness of joy; At Your right hand *are* pleasures forevermore.

**Matt. 6:33**

But **seek** first the kingdom of God and His righteousness...  
(but at what point will you be satisfied?)

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### THE DISCIPLINE OF DISCONTENTMENT

**3.) Recognize that spiritual discontentment can be bad**

This is most often associated with a bitter or wounded heart. This is a grave danger to any soul.

**we must guard our hearts against THE SCARS of pain and hurt**  
notice I said the scars and not the hurts – hurts are impossible to avoid

**Matt. 13:15**

*For the hearts of this people have grown dull.  
Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed,*

**Heb. 5:11**

...you have become dull of hearing.

### Here's The Fix

**Heb. 3:13**

But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. **:14** Pursue peace with all *people*, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: **:15** looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;

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# THE DISCIPLINE OF DISCONTENTMENT

## 4.) Recognize that spiritual discontentment can be good

### Mankind's Discontented Heart

#### Mark 9:23-24

Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." :24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"

#### Eccl. 3:11

He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts,

### Jesus' Discontented Heart

#### John 2:13-17

Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. :14 And He found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers doing business. :15 When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money and overturned the tables. :16 And He said to those who sold doves, "Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!" :17 Then His disciples remembered that it was written, "*Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up.*"

### *Are You Now Discontented with Your Spiritual Maturity ?*

#### Heb. 12:2

looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, **despising the shame**, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

## The Father's Discontented Heart

**John 3:16**

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Observe the profound discontentment in God's heart, which  
***sinful men should perish!***

## Here's What You're Gonna Want To Keep Doing

**Phil. 3:7-14**

But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. :8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ :12 Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. :13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing / do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, :14 **I press toward the goal** for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

**Psa. 17:15**

As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness;  
**I shall be satisfied when** I awake in Your likeness.

end

Prayer / As The Spirit Leads / Dedications