



Part Three: The Enemy of Contentment // Jeff Brodie // June 20, 2021

Our stuff and the money we buy it with are a part of our everyday lives. We talk about them often. However, when Jesus begins to challenge us on how we manage our resources, we can feel emotionally reluctant. Why is that? On one hand, we live in one of the wealthiest parts of the world, and yet there's something about our consumer-driven culture that leaves us unsatisfied. What drives that dissatisfaction? And what if we did listen to what Jesus has to say about it?

Scripture: [Luke 12:13-21 NLT](#); [Hebrews 13:5 NLT](#); [1 Timothy 6:6-10 NLT](#)

Bottom Line: Gratitude for the things of the kingdom is the secret to contentment here on earth.

Getting Started:

1. At what age in our lives do you think we begin to compare ourselves to those around us?
2. We've all fallen into the trap of comparison. Share about a time where you fell into that trap. What happened?

Jumping In:

3. Theodore Roosevelt said, "Comparison is the thief of joy." Do you think that comparison is always a bad thing? Why or why not?
4. Why do you think comparison can rob us of satisfaction in our lives? Why is it so tempting to compare?
5. While we live in one of the richest countries in the world, people rarely point to the greed in our culture as a problem. Why do you think that is?

Discuss:

6. Read [Luke 12:13-15](#). As the brother compares his inheritance, Jesus cautions him about "every kind of greed." Other translations say covetousness. Have you ever considered that there could be different kinds of greed? What types of greed have you seen or experienced?

7. Jeff described greed as the intersection of comparison and consumerism. Explain how this works. Do you agree or disagree?
8. At its best greed is a distraction, and at its worst it causes destruction. If you're being honest, what place on the distraction <====> destruction continuum would you say greed has in your life?
9. Jeff explored *jealousy* (God, you aren't fair), *worry* (God, you won't provide), and *entitlement* (God, you owe me because...) as three types of greed. Which one would you say you struggle with most? Why? Has that struggle changed over time?
10. Read [1 Timothy 6:6-10](#).
 - a. This passage speaks to the temptation to think of wealth as financial, not as a measure of our contentment and godliness. Why do you think we deceive ourselves that wealth is found in finances, rather than in contentment and godliness?
 - b. This passage also talks about the temptation to love money. What is the difference between seeing our finances as a tool and as an end in itself?
11. Jeff challenged us to identify areas where we are tempted to compare our possessions, finances, or situation with others and then think about if they are distracting or destroying us. What would be one of these areas in your own life?

Moving Forward:

This week, when you see an area where you are comparing your life to someone else's, choose to thank God for the things that really matter in your life: forgiveness, being his child, redemption, eternity, and his love and grace.

Remember: You can't compare and be content at the same time. You can't be greedy and grateful for the kingdom at the same time.