



## **Part One: Too Much Stuff, Too Little Contentment // Jeff Brodie // June 6, 2021**

Our Western society's consumption cycle is pretty obvious. Make money, buy stuff, make more money, buy more, and the hamster wheel of upgrading continues. Then one day you leave it all behind. But deep down, you know that there are no u-hauls behind hearses. So much of our stress, time, and energy go into making money and buying stuff and experiences. In the end, is that really all there is? Actually, Jesus teaches that there is so much more! That our relationship with our money and stuff is actually a spiritual one, and understanding it is the secret to being truly content.

**Scripture:** [Matthew 6:19-24, 33 NLT](#)

**Bottom Line:** A consumption-first life leaves you consumed. A kingdom-first life leaves you content.

### **Getting Started:**

1. If you were on a deserted island, what's one possession you would want with you?
2. When you were growing up, how did your family see possessions?
3. When you were growing up, how did your family handle or talk about money?

### **Jumping In:**

4. What do you think it is that drives so much of our consumer culture?
5. Do you feel people would say they are happier when they have more stuff or less stuff? Why?
6. Jeff shared that a consumption-based life eventually leaves us consumed in workaholism, stress, anxiety, debt, etc. Where have you seen this to be true in your own life?

### **Discuss:**

7. Read [Matthew 6:19-21](#). What do you find challenging about this passage? What sticks out to you? Do you think it's true that your treasure (or money) is the steering wheel of your heart?

8. Read [Matthew 6:22-24](#). Jeff shared about how the description of “eyes full of light” or “eyes full of darkness” in the culture of the time pointed to a way of seeing the world—a generous God and a generous life (light eyes) versus a life of envy or greed or never having enough (dark eyes).
  - a. Where do you see that in the world around you?
  - b. Why do you think we struggle to keep our eyes “full of light”?
9. Read [Matthew 6:33](#). Jeff shared that a kingdom-first life is generosity that flows out of contentment in Christ. Why is it so hard for us to find satisfaction in our relationship with Jesus? Why do we look outside of that relationship to worldly things?
10. What does a kingdom-first life look like to you with your time, possessions, and energy? What is the biggest challenge that holds you back from pursuing that?

**Moving Forward:**

In the weeks ahead, we're going to be looking at how margin, generosity, and simplicity can be tools to help us live a kingdom-first life. Be in prayer that God would speak to you in the areas you need to grow and that your heart would follow what God wants *for* you.