



TRUE

Contentment

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“True Contentment: In Simplicity” DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE - May 10th, 2020

WARM UP QUESTION (5-10 min): How do you know when your life is too complicated?

READ: [2 Kings 4:38-44](#)

FOCUS: True contentment comes when we allow God to simplify our lives

OBSERVE (10 minutes)

1) **Discontent with Boundaries (vs 39-39)**

- The famine in the land is the context of this story. It hit the righteous as well as the unrighteous.
- Elisha gathered with the sons of the prophets in community to learn, fellowship, and eat.
- God (through Elisha) commanded his servant to prepare a meal of stew (specific instructions) for the prophets.
- The servant went searching for herbs but found a vine of wild gourds. He harvested as many as he could, cut them up, and put them in the stew.
- The servant did not realize what kind of gourds they were.

2) **Contentment with the Bare Essentials (vs 40-41)**

- The servant of Elisha cooked and served his well intentioned stew to the sons of the prophets.
- The prophets tasted the stew and then knew what the servant did not know: the gourds in the stew were deadly.
- The prophets cried out to the ‘man of God’ which means ‘true prophet’ or ‘messenger of God’. They did not deride Elisha’s servant, but went straight to Elisha as God’s messenger.
- Like when God used Elisha with salt to heal the waters at Jericho, he had Elisha bring about this healing through flour. The stew was healed and they ate.

3) Contentment with the Bread of Life (vs 42-44)

- A man brought his firstfruits of bread and grain to Elisha as God's servant.
- The gift of food was brought in worship of God and given to Elisha as God's messenger. Elisha then instructed the food be shared with the men with him.
- The servant was not confident it would be enough for the amount of men.
- Elisha again commands for it to be given because the LORD said to give it, adding "They shall eat and have some left".
- The food fed the men and there was some left over. This foreshadows Jesus feeding the large crowds with a few fish and loaves.

"A skeptic once said to me, 'I don't believe the Bible because it has miracles.' I said, 'Name one.' He said, 'Turning water into wine. Do you believe that?' I said, 'Yeah, it happens all the time.' He said, 'What do you mean?' I said, 'Well, rain goes through the grapevine up into the grape, and the grape turns into wine. All Jesus did was speed it up a little bit.'"

- Norman L. Geisler

REFLECT AND DISCUSS (30 min)

- Discuss why the servant may have collected unknown wild gourds when he went out for herbs. How do our intentions and God's intentions diverge?
- Like deadly gourds added to the stew, what things did you think when added to your life would bring health and fulfillment but have actually complicated your life?
- How can you work with God to simplify and purify your life?

TAKE ACTION

- Prioritize time in God's Word and prayer as #1
- Prioritize time on screens with God's people as #2
- Prioritize God's overflowing heart toward the lost as #3
- Ask God what He wants to remove in your life. What boundaries does He want to place in your life so that you can enjoy the abundant life of Christ? [John 10:10](#)

PRAY TOGETHER (10 min)

- Heavenly Father, you are perfect and so are your plans for me in Christ Jesus. I admit I have been sidetracked at best and rebellious at worst, complicating my life and the lives of those around me. Please forgive me, help me follow you, and deliver me from famine and death. In Jesus name, amen.