



TRUE

Contentment

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“Needs and Fears” STUDY GUIDE - APRIL 19th, 2020

WARM UP QUESTION (5-10 min): Do you consider yourself a content person?

READ: 2 Kings 2:19-22, Matt 5:13-16

FOCUS: True contentment comes as Jesus meets our greatest needs and puts to rest our greatest fears.

OBSERVE (10 minutes)

1) Our greatest Needs: *God designed our greatest needs (2 Kings 2:19-22)*

- The city was pleasant but the water was bad.
- The water hadn't always been bad, lest the ancient city couldn't have grown up around the source.
- The bad water made the people and land unfruitful.
- Something was needed from the people for God's remedy: a new bowl and salt.
- Action (placing salt in the spring) and declaration of God's Word worked together to bring healing.

- God's healing was long term.

2) Our greatest fears: *God knows our greatest fears including 1) loneliness 2) lack and 3) death*

- Our greatest fears are the counterparts to our greatest needs...threatening our contentment.
- Loneliness (Heb 10:24-25)
 - *“The most terrible poverty is loneliness, and the feeling of being unloved.” - Mother Teresa*
 - Am I going to be forgotten?
 - Stay in community!

- Lack (Lk 3:14, 1 Tim 6:6-12, Phil 4:11-13)
 - God instructs in our circumstance:
 - In provision? -Be content
 - In lack?-Be found in Christ
 - In abundance?-Be generous
- Death -the end of all earthly purpose (Heb 2:14-15, Rev 21:1,3-5)
 - Fear of death is lifelong slavery
 - Jesus' gospel is the 'salt' that heals the 'bad' water, the land, and the city

"If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world" - C.S. Lewis

3) Meeting our needs and ending our fears: *Our greatest needs are met and our greatest fears are overcome in Jesus Christ. (Matt 5:13-16)*

- You are the salt, Jesus restores you
- You are the light, Jesus makes you shine, puts you on His stand, does good works through you, and brings the Father glory
- This is how you become fearless and content

REFLECT AND DISCUSS (30 min)

- How does knowing that God created you with needs affect your relationship with Him?
- In what ways have you met your needs with 'bad water'?
- How does
- the salt that heals the bad water relate to the Gospel of Jesus Christ?
- How does the Gospel remove fear of loneliness, lack, and death bringing contentment to the believer?

TAKE ACTION

- Take a survey of the areas of your life where you feel content and discontent.
- Pray. Ask God to show you the bad sources of water which steal your contentment. Cut off (repent) what He shows you and begin to look to Jesus for real relationship, whole provision, and eternal purpose.
- What things do you need to add to your life (new bowl) to help facilitate this contentment?

PRAY TOGETHER (10 min)

- Father God, you made me and know my needs and fears. You fulfill my needs and give me true peace according to your riches and glory in Christ. Help me drink from the waters of Christ all my days. In Jesus name. Amen.