



Small Group Notes

Text:

Matthew 6:19-24

Title:

Transformation through simplicity

Further scriptures:

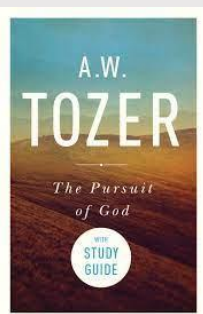
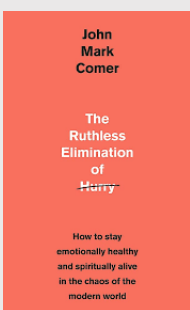
Luke 12:13-21

Matt. 13:22

Phil. 4:11-13

1 Tim. 6:6-10

Heb. 13:5-6



This week we looked at the topic of contentment. The call of the world is to the accumulation of more and more stuff in the pursuit of satisfaction. But is this the call of Christ? What is the true pathway to contentment?

Reflect

1. What most impacted you from the passage or from the preach?
2. Why does Jesus tell us not to lay up treasures on earth?
3. What do you think it means to lay up treasures in heaven?
4. What is contentment? When do you feel content? What stops you feeling content? Does your experience of 'contentment' line up with Paul's in Phil. 4:11-13?
5. What do you understand by the practice of simplicity?

Respond

1. Look at Matt. 13:22. In your experience, what 'cares of the world' or 'deceitfulness of riches' choke the word (the truth of Jesus and the gospel) in your heart? Or to put it another way, what things clutter up your heart and push God out?
2. How do you know if a material possession has a hold on you?
3. How can we walk freely from the power of stuff? (Look at 1 Tim. 6:17-19)

Practice

1. Simplicity is an inward reality (contentment) that leads to an outward expression. Where are you seeking contentment, or what are you putting your trust in, other than Jesus? What things are you too attached to? Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal these things to you and surrender them to him.
2. Consider if there are any practical steps you could take to cultivate an inner contentment through outward practices of simplicity (Refer to the Practice Sheet for ideas)

Further reading

The ruthless elimination of hurry, *John Mark Comer*

If only: Finding contentment in the face of lack and longing, *Jennie Pollock*

The pursuit of God, *A.W. Tozer*