



Finding Shelter

1 Timothy 6:6-11; 6:17-19

Message from Jason Hawley

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Bottom Line: Discontentment is controlled when you turn your attention from what you want to what others need. Once controlled, the appetite diminishes. Generosity vs. consumption.

Introduction: It is easy to get and stay lost financially. Culture promotes it. Today, I want to address the dynamic that fuels our financial problems. In some ways, it fuels our economy. Discontentment: dissatisfaction and that desire to upgrade everything.

How do we stay content in a world where that cool new thing keeps getting dangled in front of us? What if there was a way to harness that discontentment? What if we had harnessed it five years ago? Think of where you would be financially.

Not all discontentment is bad.

Before we move forward, we need to understand that not all discontentment is bad. In fact there is such a thing as good

discontentment: bad habits, unhealthy relationships, lack of progress, etc.

Dissatisfaction has led to some great things in the world. It has fed the hungry, helped people with poverty, and given clean water to parts of the world.

The downside:

If “gain” is what you are looking for, here is a winning formula – devotion to God combined with an inner satisfaction with what you have. (Timothy 6:6)

We came into this world with nothing and we will leave with nothing. What does that say about our constant – at times passionate – at times future sacrificing – pursuit for more? It says people who target wealth for wealth’s sake, will one day find themselves trapped by it.

How do you know if you are one of those people who target wealth just to get rich? First do you love money? That might be a hard question to answer. Here are a few easier ones: What are you willing to do for it? Who are you willing to hurt for it? Who or what gets placed behind it?

The solution: FLEE one thing. PURSUE something else.

The solution to dangerous discontentment does not come by saying I’m not, I’m not, I’m not. The solution to discontentment is to redirect all that energy somewhere else.

Paul tells those who are rich (that is all of us) not to be arrogant. Don’t prop up your ego, but instead put your hope in God.

Paul gives us four practical things we can do:

1. Do good
2. Be rich in good deeds
3. Be generous
4. Be willing to share

Obsess about this: How can I leverage my wealth to do more good?

Application:

The key to contentment is to decide to replace one pursuit with another.

This is not about feeling guilty. It’s about making a decision to

intentionally pursue generosity with your time and money.

- Do good.
- Turn your attention from what you want to what others don't have.
- Prioritize the needs of others over the extras.

As a result – it will curb your appetite.

Conclusion:

1. Planned generosity curbs discontentment.
2. Discontentment is controlled when you turn your attention from what you want to what others need. Once controlled, the appetite diminishes.
3. That requires awareness and intentionality.

NEXT STEPS:

- Memorize: 1 Timothy 6:6.**
- Find a cause that breaks your heart and get involved with it financially and with your time.**
- Pastor, Sign Me Up for the Six-Month Tithe Challenge.**
- Change a life. Invite a friend to Easter Sunday Service!**

NEXT WEEK— Losing Your Religion: Reflections of a Zealot

Religion exists to control you. Jesus came to restore you.

Losing faith is part of the human experience. We all know someone who lost faith. And if we're honest, we'll agree that there are many reasons to lose faith--from all the harm that has been done in the name of religion to wondering if God really hears our