

Contented With Crumbs

Introduction

Proverbs 20:13 Do not love sleep, lest you come to poverty; Open your eyes, and you will be satisfied with bread.

- **Idleness will not profit you, me, or anyone else anything!**
- 1. **God offers to man so much, much more than we can ever imagine.**
- 2. **Often times we become satisfied where we are in life, our crumbs.**
 - A. **We may have become too content with our spiritual life.**
 - 1) **CONTENTMENT: “To be free from care because of satisfaction with what is already one's own.”**
The Hebrew means simply **“to be pleased.”**
 - **What does the Bible teach concerning contentment?**
 - a. **It can be good thing:**
1 Timothy 6:6-8
 - **We need to learn to be content with what we have in this life.**
 - **Riches and earthly treasures can't go with us to the grave.**
 - b. **It can be a bad thing:**
Philippians 2:19-22; 3:12-14
 - **In the area of spiritual desire and progress we are not to be content.**

Ways in Which We Become Contented with the Crumbs

1. Apathy

Isaiah 56:10-12

- Lack of emotion, lack of interest, or indifference.
- Spiritual sleep, an overall dullness.

2. Laziness

Proverbs 10:4-5; 13:4; 22:13; 28:19

A. Hiding our talent

Matthew 25:24-30

- We don't try to be better or do more.
(crumbs vs. bread)

3. Selfishness

Philippians 2:3-5, 20-21 ("seek their own")

4. As a result of these things, we will find ourselves drifting away from, instead of toward God.

The Value of Seeking

1. **We will be held responsible for our actions (work) in God's Kingdom.**
Matthew 25:31-46
 - “The word will judge him in the last Day” (John 12:48)
 - A. **What is the extent of the value that we place on our soul or the soul of others?**
2. **Therefore, we should be a “seeking” people.**
Acts 17:26-31
 - **We exist only because He created us – we must live “FOR” Him.**
 - A. **Seeking: “a desire, endeavor, a continual effort” not turning away - as other nations did.**
 - **We should possess a heart like that of Ezra:**

Ezra 7:10 For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel.

- 1) **We should possess a seeking effort as was displayed with the woman who lost her coin.**

Luke 15:8-9 Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls her friends and neighbors together, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I lost!'

What Can We Do?

1. In most cases one becomes contented with the crumbs when **they cease to recognize the great gift of God in sending His Son.**

A. To keep this from happening we should keep God squarely focused in our life. We can do that by:

- **Being a present church member**

Hebrews 10:25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but **exhorting one another**, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

- **Being a cooperating church member**

Romans 12:10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor **giving preference to one another**

— **Sometimes we may do more in civic/social clubs than the local church.**

- **Being a sympathetic church member**

Romans 12:15-16

- **Being a sincere church member**

Romans 12:11 **not lagging in diligence**, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;

- **Being a studying church member**

Acts 17:11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and **searched the Scriptures daily** to find out whether these things were so.

2 Timothy 2:15

- **We will not be able to partake of the eternal bread of life without studying God’s Word to us.**
- **This is the difference between the “crumbs” or the “bread.”**
- **Being a growing church member**

2 Peter 3:18 but **grow in the grace and knowledge** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ....

- **There is NO growth without knowledge and there is NO knowledge without Bible study.**
- **Being a constant church member**

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, **be steadfast, immovable,** always **abounding in the work** of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

- **Be strong for God – always reaching for heaven!**
- **When tested, the best of us will show through!**
- **Being a sacrificial church member**

Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a **living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed** by the renewing of your mind, that **you may prove** what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

- **God MUST be first and foremost in our life above everyone and everything else!**

Mark 12:30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your **heart**, with all your **soul**, with all your **mind**, and with all your **strength**.' This is the first commandment.

Conclusion

1. **When we become contented with only the crumbs, then we will cease to grow.**

2. **We need to be a “hungering” people.**

A. **Hunger: “A strong need or desire for food.”**

1) **Jesus said:**

John 6:35 I am the **bread** of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst

3. **We have a choice: To be contented with the crumbs which can never satisfy, or to hunger for the bread of life so that we may never hunger again.**

PARABLE OF THE POPPER

Galatians 6:7-9 **Do not be deceived**, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap **if we do not lose heart.**

A. **It all begins with ME!**

Invitation

Place

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Richie Thetford, April 2002 - Re-worked September 2022

The Parable of the Popper

Behold at the time of harvest the ears of corn did bring forth kernels which were dried and prepared for the popper's hand.

And the popper did take the kernels, all of which appeared alike unto him, and did apply the oil and the heat.

And it came to pass when the heat was on, some did explode with promise and did magnify themselves, yea, even a hundred fold.

And some did burst forth with whiteness, which did both gladden the eye of the beholder and satisfy the taste of the popper.

And likewise, some others did pop, but not too much. But lo, there were some that did just lie there and even though the popper's heat was alike unto all, they did bask in the warmth of the oil and kept everything they had for themselves.

And so it came to pass that those which had given of themselves, did bring joy and delight to many munchers, but those which kept of the warmth and did not burst forth were fit only to be cast out, and were thought of with hardness and disgust.

And thus we see that in the beginning all appear alike, but when the heat is on, some come forth and give their all while others fail and are discarded.

(Author Unknown)

How Would We Feel?

Selected

If God gave us the same amount of time and attention that we devote to Him?

If God put as many things ahead of us as we put ahead of Him?

If God offered as many excuses as we do? And if the excuses were no more justifiable than ours?

If God's promises were no more certain than ours?

If God withheld His blessings from us as we withhold our offering from Him?