

The Best is Yet to Come! The Power of Contentment.

Ruth 4:13-22

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**Summary:** Today's message is about The Power of Contentment. By studying Ruth 4:13-22 we will gain an understanding into the power that comes from being satisfied in Christ and rejecting an entitled attitude of entitlement.

**Pre-sermon "warm up":**

Reflectively Read: Ruth 4:13-22. Ask God what He wants you to learn, take away, and apply to your life right now.

Take time to pray: Ask God to use this passage to speak into your life; to transform you where you need to be transformed, and to grow you where you need to be grown. Be teachable!

The Danger in Discontentment

1. Read Philippians 4:11-13. What was Paul's (one of my all-time heroes of the faith) perspective towards contentment? What can we learn from him?
2. Make a list (there will be several opportunities for lists today!) of what discontentment DOES NOT allow us to see about God - what does discontentment prevent us from seeing? What is really at the root of discontentment?

Three Steps Towards Contentment:

- 1) We must look ahead. v. 13
  - Read James 5:8. How does that speak to contentment vs. discontentment? How does that verse speak to your heart at the personal level?
  - How does Ruth 4:13 and James 5:8 link together? What commonalities do they share? What rises up here that you can apply to your life right now?
- 2) Give Thanks. vv. 14-16
  - "An attitude of gratitude!" You have heard this cliché before. But it is so true. Time for another list (#2). Make a list, right now, of all the things you can be thankful for. Gather family members, involve them. Keep this going for several days!
  - Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. When must we give thanks? How good are you at doing that? What do you need to pray for right now regarding this?
  - Before you go to bed: Thank God for 5 things. When you wake up: Thank God for 5 things. (Bookends!) Repeat this process daily. You are not allowed to repeat things that you are thankful for. Keep a running list. Focus on the blessings-Psalm 23:5!
  - Close your eyes. Remove all distractions and listen to:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XtwlT8JjddM>
- 3) Maintain Perspective. vv. 18-22
  - Time for another list (#3). Make a list of *God's Faithfulness* in your life (this is different than what you can give thanks for.). Again, involve those around you. Again, go for several days. Again, THANK GOD for His faithfulness to you.
  - Share how you have seen God's redemptive hand in your life. Who is in your life that you can share God's redemptive hand with? Think neighbors right now....