

Contentment

By Pastor Greg
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2 Samuel 7:1-17

Bunkertown COB

A guy driving a Mini Cooper pulls up at a stoplight next to a Rolls-Royce. The driver of the Mini rolls down his window and shouts to the driver of the Rolls, "Hey, buddy, that's a nice car. You got a phone in your Rolls? I've got one in my Mini!" The driver of Rolls looks over and says simply, "Yes, I have a phone." The driver of the Mini says, "Cool! Hey, you got a fridge in there too? I've got a fridge in the back seat of my Mini!" The driver of the Rolls, looking annoyed, says, "Yes, I have a refrigerator." The driver of the Mini says, "That's great, man! Hey, you got a TV in there, too? You know, I got a TV in the back seat of my Mini!" The driver of the Rolls, looking very annoyed by now, says, "Of course I have a television. A Rolls-Royce is the finest luxury car in the world!" The driver of the Mini says, "Very cool car! Hey, you got a bed in there, too? I got a bed in the back of my Mini!" Upset that he did not have a bed, the driver of the Rolls-Royce sped away, and went straight to the dealer, where he promptly ordered that a bed be installed in the back of the Rolls. The next morning, the driver of the Rolls picked up the car. The bed looked superb, complete with silk sheets and brass trim. It was clearly a bed fit for a Rolls Royce.

So the driver of the Rolls begins searching for the Mini, and he drove all day. Finally, late at night, he finds the Mini parked, with all the windows fogged up from the inside. The driver of the Rolls got out and knocked on the Mini. When there wasn't any answer, he knocked and knocked, and eventually the owner stuck his head out, soaking wet. "I now have a bed in the back of my Rolls-Royce," the driver of the Rolls stated arrogantly. The driver of the Mini looked at him and said, "You got me out of the shower for THAT?!"

The Apostle Paul says, "I am not telling you this because I need anything. I have learned to be satisfied with the things I have and with everything that

happens.”¹ (Philippians 4:11). Now when most of us think about being content we think about possessions or about how we look or where we live. We are told to be happy with our supper. People are starving in this world, so eat them peas. But there is a deeper level of contentment a Christian must have. And that is contentment with the role God has asked us to play in life.

We find King David during a time of peace thinking about God. In 2 Samuel 7 we find him dreaming about doing something wonderful for God. But God, it seems, had something else in mind.

Read 2 Samuel 7:1-17

Notice that God doesn't scold David. He doesn't say, "What were you thinking!" Actually, God is impressed with the idea, but that's not what He had in mind for David. In fact, God says that building the Temple WILL happen, but someone else will get the recognition. Sure, it was David's idea. Sure, David get's all the material ready for the construction. But tell me Bible Scholars, whose name is associated with this first Temple built in Jerusalem (It's Solomon)? Yea. Can you believe it? David get's this magnificent idea to honor God. He takes the time to consult a prophet of God. He does the research, buys the land, and gathers all the material. But his son Solomon gets all the credit. How do you suppose David reacted to this bit of news? *"Now, my son, may the Lord be with you and give you success as you follow his directions in building the Temple of the Lord your God."*² (1 Chronicles 22:11)

Here is the attitude I see in people like David, John the Baptist, and the Apostle Paul. Each one of them was content to do what God had asked. David was the conqueror so Solomon could enjoy a kingdom of peace. John the Baptist points to Jesus and says, *"He must increase, but I must decrease"*. (John 3:30). And Paul reminds everyone that, *"I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the*

¹*The Everyday Bible : New Century Version*. 2005 (Php 4:11). Nashville, TN.: Thomas Nelson, Inc.

²Tyndale House Publishers. (2004). *Holy Bible : New Living Translation*. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House Publishers.

growth".³ (1 Corinthians 3:6) Each of these men were content to let someone else get the credit and the glory. They humbly submitted to the role God had asked them to play.

Have you ever had a brilliant idea that you just couldn't wait to share with the group? But when you do, it seems to be shot down. You fume and fuss about how narrow minded or blind some people can be. And yet six months later someone else makes the exact suggestion and the group thinks its the best idea to come along in years. How does it make you feel? Do you want to stand and shout, "That was my idea?" Or are you content to have been the person who merely got the group thinking; that you were the one who planted the seed but someone else reaped the harvest.

This is what I see in King David. He was flatly told NO. He would not be the one to build the Temple. Solomon would. And David was okay with that. But God does say something else here that has a certain hidden truth, something that I believe can be seen by those who willingly and joyfully serve God not seeking their own glory but looking to honor God. God says that people will remember David. That for generations to come people will be talking about the man who laid the foundation for peace in the nation of Israel.

I've been to a lot of funerals. And one things that stands out to me is that a mother or a father, or that godly grandparent who nurtured the seed of God in their family, are often times honored as the one who helped everyone else become the success they are. "It was Grandma's love that made me what I am today", I hear so often. And yet Grandma was someone simple and humble; an unimpressive person according to the worlds standards. But that was the role God had asked them to play.

Tell me, what role has God asked you to play? Are you the one who plants the seeds? Are you the one who waters the growth? These are the roles that receive little glory. The world wants to honor those who reap the harvest, but it just might be that someone else receives that honor. Are you content with that?

³*New American Standard Bible : 1995 update.* 1995 (1 Co 3:6). LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.