

Content Where He's Called You

-Do you ever wonder if you are where God has called you to be? (...)

-Do you ever ask yourself is this all God wants out of my life?(...)

-Have you ever asked "Am I doing His plan for me"?(...)

- "And if I am, is this it?"(...)

-A story is told of a king who went into his garden one morning, and found everything withered and dying. He asked the oak that stood near the gate what the trouble was. He found it was sick of life and determined to die because it was not tall and beautiful like the pine. He went to the pine and asked him what the trouble was. The pine replied that he was all out of heart because it could not bear grapes, like the vine. He went to the vine and the vine was going to throw its life away because it could not stand erect and have as fine a fruit as the peach tree. The geranium was fretting because it was not tall and fragrant like the lilac, and so on all throughout the garden. Coming to the heartsease (a plant bearing small, variously colored flowers), he found its bright face lifted as cheery as ever. "Well, heartsease, I'm glad, amidst all this discouragement, to find one brave little flower. You do not seem to be the least disheartened." "No, I am not of much account, but I thought that if you wanted an oak, or a pine, or a peach tree, or a lilac, you would have planted one; but as I knew you wanted a heartsease and planted me, I am determined to be the best little heartsease that I can."

-We can learn something from this story. God made you exactly as you are and He loves you just this way! He planted you here! You are precious to Him. He wants you to be secure in His love, content where He's called you and determined to be the best that you can through Him, not by yourself. He knows how imperfect we are, but He uses us to accomplish His perfect plan. That is what we are going to study today and we are going to do it by studying verses straight from His Word.

-First off, God wants us to know we can be Secure in His Love where we are at! Let's read our first verse together on our Verse Sheet to see how He says this: (John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His One and Only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.")

-So how much does He love us? (He gave us His Son and eternal life! He gave us everything that was meaningful to Him!)

-Let's read our next verse to see how well He knows us and how much we are worth to Him: (Matthew 10:30-31 "The very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.")

-Unless you are bald, do you know how many hairs are on your head?(...) God does!

-And who takes care of the sparrows, even in the winter? (God)

-So, if God cares enough to know how many hairs we have and can take care of the sparrows even in the winter and tells us we are worth more than that, don't you think He is going to take care of you where you are at because He loves you? Be secure in His love!

-Now, let's move on. How many of you are really content where you are right now?(...) Do you believe He has called you here, even though it may be a struggle?(...)

-To help us with this, let's read verse #3 on our Verse Sheet, which was written by Paul while in prison: (Philippians 4:11-13 "I have learned to be content *whatever* the circumstances. I have learned the secret of being content in *any* and *every* situation. I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.")

-Can you be content where God has called you?(...)

-Look at Paul, in prison, after being beaten and wrongfully charged, and writing this. God called Him to be there and because of that he wrote this encouraging letter we are reading thousands of years later. So, was this God's plan for him to be there? (Yes)

-And who gave Him the strength to be content? (Christ)

-So, let me ask the question again, can you be content where you are?(...) It is a decision. Chuck Swindoll once said, "The remarkable thing is, we have a choice everyday regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day."

-It is our decision what attitude we will take for the day the Lord has laid before us.

-Let's read our next verse together, #4: (I Timothy 6:6 "But godliness with contentment is great gain.")

-What do you think Paul is trying to tell us here? (True godliness with contentment is itself great wealth, wealth that cannot be bought or sold.)

-D. L. Moody once wrote "Spread out your petition before God and then say, 'Thy will, not mine, be done'. The sweetest lesson I have learned in God's school is to let the Lord choose for me." Be content where He's called you and you will bring honor to Him.

-Did you know the Lord wants you to be the best you were created to be where you are today? (...)

-Give me some examples on how you can be the best where you are right now? (...)

-Let's read our following verse, #5, to see what it has to say: (Galatians 6:10 "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.")

-What are some good things you can do, right now, where you are?(...)

-Let's read our next verse, #6, together: (Ephesians 5:15-16 "Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity!")

-Wisdom is realizing God has put you here in this place at this time for His purpose. Now, think about how you can make the most of this opportunity! Give us some "wise" examples of this:

-Do you remember me asking you at the beginning if you ever questioned if this is all God wants out of your life or is this His plan for me?

-Let's discover the answer to this together. Let's read together verse # 7 on our verse sheet and talk about it: (Jeremiah 29:11-13 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will see Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart.")

-What is the first part of this verse telling us? (That He has plans for us.)

-We weren't an accident and our situation is not an accident. He planned for us to be here and to prosper where we are at.

-Now, do you think God's idea of prosperity is wealth or something more? (It could include wealth, but it may also mean no monetary wealth but Spiritual wealth. The kind that includes forgiveness of sins, transforming our character, fellowship with God, peace that passes all understanding, joy in the midst of the storm that no one can take away, joy in ministering to others, life in heaven through eternity, etc.)

-As we get older we realize that wealth is fleeting, it comes and it goes. But yet, the peace that comes from having a Heavenly Father that loves us and wants a personal relationship with us never diminishes!

-Let's read our last verse together, #8: (Ephesians 1:11 "In Him we were also chosen having been predestined according to the plan of Him *Who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of His will.*")

-What does that last part say? (...)

-So, after reading this verse, do you think you are an accident or God is not working out His plan in your own life?(...)

-What if you are sitting in an elderly home and wondering what your purpose is, do you believe He has one for you?

-What if you are an empty nester mom, do you think He is working out everything to conform to the purpose of His perfect will?

-What if you are mom with children and chores that seem to leave no time for other things, do you believe He is still working His plan for you?

-What if you are working for hours every week with little time left to do other things because of necessity? Do you believe He is working out His perfect plan with you?

-He is and will do so much more if you will just relax, pray and follow His lead right where you are at!

-Trust Him, He has never failed us yet!

Content Where He's Called You Verse Sheet

1. John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that He gave His One and Only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”
2. Matthew 10:30-31 “The very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.”
3. Philippians 4:11-13 “I have learned to be content *whatever* the circumstances. I have learned the secret of being content in *any* and *every* situation. I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.”
4. I Tim. 6:6 “But godliness with contentment is great gain.”
5. Galatians 6:10 “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.”
6. Eph. 5:15-16 “Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity!”
7. Jeremiah 29:11-13 “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will see Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart.”
8. Ephesians 1:11 “In Him we were also chosen having been predestined according to the plan of Him *Who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of His will.*”