

FINDING SATISFACTION – PART 1

John 4:14 ... “but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst...”

In today's verse Jesus is speaking to a Samaritan woman who previously had five husbands and was then living with yet another man. She spent her life trying to find happiness and personal satisfaction in other people. Although this conversation happened more than 2,000 years ago, the problem is more common today than ever.

Just look at the number of very young girls getting married, some as young as 12 and 13. Tribal customs play a role in this situation, but it is also true that many young people look at marriage as a way of escaping the poor status of their parents. They try to find satisfaction in other people, but mostly find grief, hardship and even greater poverty. Many high school and college students are forced to drop out of school due to pregnancy. They have fallen for the notion that they can be happier in the arms of a lover, but soon find their own arms are filled with a baby that changes their life and cancels their dreams.

Drugs, alcohol, promiscuity, and gangs become the solution of choice for many young people, who are searching for something to satisfy them. However, those solutions only kill and destroy. They do not satisfy. Some people pursue wealth, cars, travel, possessions, nice clothes and homes in hope of finding satisfaction. Those things may satisfy for a moment, but it does not last. A new expensive cell phone is outdated and boring two months after it is purchased. Expensive clothes do not look as cute after they have been washed twice. A car is nice, until you have to pay for repairs, tires, fuel and damages. It is nice to have good friends, but as they get married and have children you will not see them as often.

The biggest threat to your satisfaction, is yourself. When you value other people, activities and possessions as being more important or gratifying than a relationship with Jesus, you are beginning to wander in lonelyville. As you become more despondent over your aloneness, your character changes and you become less fun and attractive to your friends and people you meet. Do you have friends who were once cool and fun to be with, but who now are really hard to be around? That is often because they looked for satisfaction in all the wrong places, and became mired in self-pity. It is not pleasant to be around a person who is preoccupied with their own self-pity and loneliness.

I know it sounds strange when you tell people that Jesus wants to be their best friend. Please read part 2 of this devotional in a few days, to find out why it is anything but strange, and an absolutely perfect solution.

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