

CONTENT, CONTENTMENT

The herdmen of Gerar weren't **content** to just steal one well from Isaac. Instead they stole the second well that he dug as well.

- **Genesis 26:19-21:** "And Isaac's servants digged in the valley, and found there a well of springing water. And the herdmen of Gerar did strive with Isaac's herdmen, saying, The water is ours: and he called the name of the well Esek; because they strove with him. And they digged another well, and strove for that also: and he called the name of it Sitnah."

Leah wasn't **content** with four sons. She wanted more. (This is because her husband Jacob didn't love her, and she thought if she had enough children then he would eventually love her.)

- **Genesis 30:17:** "And God hearkened unto Leah, and she conceived, and bare Jacob the fifth son."

Moses was **content** to dwell with Reuel.

- **Exodus 2:18, 21:** "And when they came to Reuel their father, he said, How is it that ye are come so soon to day? ... And Moses was content to dwell with the man: and he gave Moses Zipporah his daughter."

It seems that taking the frogs away from Egypt wasn't urgent to Pharaoh. He was **content** for Moses to wait until the following day to ask the Lord to remove them from the land.

- **Exodus 8:8-10:** "Then Pharaoh called for Moses and

Aaron, and said, Intreat the Lord, that he may take away the frogs from me, and from my people; and I will let the people go, that they may do sacrifice unto the Lord. And Moses said unto Pharaoh, Glory over me: when shall I intreat for thee, and for thy servants, and for thy people, to destroy the frogs from thee and thy houses, that they may remain in the river only? And he said, To morrow. And he said, Be it according to thy word: that thou mayest know that there is none like unto the LORD our God."

The Israelites were unwilling to stand up to the Egyptians in order to obtain their freedom. Instead they were **content** to remain slaves, even though the Egyptians were murdering their children. (They actually told Moses to *leave them alone* and not save them.)

- **Exodus 14:12:** "Is not this the word that we did tell thee in Egypt, saying, Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? For it had been better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness."

Aaron told Moses the reason he and his sons hadn't eaten their portion of the sin offering was because he didn't think God would accept it after everything that happened that day. (Two of Aaron's sons had been killed by God for offering Him strange fire.) When Moses heard that explanation he was **content**.

- **Leviticus 10:19-20:** "And Aaron said unto Moses, Behold, this day have they offered their sin offering and their burnt offering before the Lord; and such things have befallen me: and if I had eaten the sin offering to day, should it have been accepted in the sight of the Lord?"

And when Moses heard that, he was content."

When the Israelites were in the wilderness, they weren't **content** to eat the manna that God miraculously provided to them.

- **Numbers 11:6:** "But now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes."

After the men of Ai defeated the Israelites, Joshua wished the Israelites had been **content** to dwell on the eastern side of the Jordan river.

- **Joshua 7:7:** "And Joshua said, Alas, O LORD God, wherefore hast thou at all brought this people over Jordan, to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? would to God we had been content, and dwelt on the other side Jordan!"

Jephthah told the king of the Ammonites that they should be **content** with whatever land the god that they worshiped (Chemosh) gave to them.

- **Judges 11:24:** "Wilt not thou possess that which Chemosh thy god giveth thee to possess? So whomsoever the LORD our God shall drive out from before us, them will we possess."

The Levite was **content** to live with Micah and be a priest to his pagan idol. (This changed after the tribe of Dan came along and asked him to join them.)

- **Judges 17:11:** "And the Levite was content to dwell with

the man; and the young man was unto him as one of his sons."

The Levite was **content** to spend the night in the streets of Gibeah. (He should never have even entered into that wicked city, let alone tried to spend the night there.)

- **Judges 19:18-19:** "And he said unto him, We are passing from Bethlehemjudah toward the side of mount Ephraim; from thence am I: and I went to Bethlehemjudah, but I am now going to the house of the Lord; and there is no man that receiveth me to house. Yet there is both straw and provender for our asses; and there is bread and wine also for me, and for thy handmaid, and for the young man which is with thy servants: there is no want of any thing."

David wasn't **content** with the *many* wives he already had. When he saw Bathsheba washing herself he lusted after her.

- **2 Samuel 11:2-3:** "And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon. And David sent and enquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?"

When Gehazi lied to Naaman and asked for a talent of silver, Naaman told him to be **content** and take two talents. (This was an enormous sum of money.)

- **2 Kings 5:21-23:** "So Gehazi followed after Naaman. And when Naaman saw him running after him, he lighted

down from the chariot to meet him, and said, Is all well? And he said, All is well. My master hath sent me, saying, Behold, even now there be come to me from mount Ephraim two young men of the sons of the prophets: give them, I pray thee, a talent of silver, and two changes of garments. And Naaman said, Be content, take two talents. And he urged him, and bound two talents of silver in two bags, with two changes of garments, and laid them upon two of his servants; and they bare them before him."

Job told Eliphaz to be **content** and look upon him, so that he could see that Job wasn't lying to him.

- **Job 6:28:** "Now therefore be content, look upon me; for it is evident unto you if I lie."

Contentment is life-giving. (However, envy is incredibly destructive.)

- **Proverbs 14:30:** "A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones."

We must learn to be **content** with the things that we have. (Contentment can extend our life.)

- **Proverbs 28:16:** "The prince that wanteth understanding is also a great oppressor: but he that hateth covetousness shall prolong his days."

We must be **content** with what God has given us, and not steal from others.

- **Luke 3:14:** "And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages."

Judas wasn't **content** to merely lead the multitude to Jesus (to hand Him over to his enemies). Instead he wanted to go one step further and betray Jesus with a kiss.

- **Luke 22:47:** "And while he yet spake, behold a multitude, and he that was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them, and drew near unto Jesus to kiss him."

The Jews weren't **content** to force the apostles to leave their city. Instead they persecuted them from city to city.

- **Acts 14:19:** "And there came thither certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and having stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead."

We must not envy others. Instead we must learn to be **content**.

- **Romans 13:13:** "Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying."

Christians must strive to be perfect. We can't allow ourselves to be **content** with anything less.

- **2 Corinthians 13:11:** "Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in

peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you."

Christians must be **content** regardless of their circumstances. We should be content in good situations and bad situations, in rich situations and poor situations.

- **Philippians 4:11-12:** "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need."

When Paul said that he can do all things through Christ, he was talking about being **content** while suffering in prison.

- **Philippians 4:12-13:** "I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

Even though Paul was **content** while suffering in prison, the Philippian church did the right thing when they helped ease his afflictions.

- **Philippians 4:14:** "Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction."

True gain comes from godliness and **contentment**.

- **1 Timothy 6:6:** "But godliness with contentment is great gain."

If we have food and **clothing** then we should be content.

- **1 Timothy 6:8:** "And having food and raiment let us be therewith content."

Christians shouldn't desire the riches of this world. Instead we should pursue **contentment**.

- **1 Timothy 6:8-10:** "And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

We must learn to be **content** with what God has given us.

- **Hebrews 13:5:** "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

The reason we can be **content** with whatever we have is because God will never leave us or forsake us.

- **Hebrews 13:5:** "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."