

THE SINFUL CENSUS

The Life of David

II Samuel 24



Patrick Curles, EXECUTIVE MINISTER

Trinity Presbyterian Church — Montgomery, Alabama

1. The Downward Spiral From Contentment to Coveting

- We Lose Sight of God's Provision. - vv. 1-3
 - Contentment must be learned.
I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. Philippians 4:12
 - Contentment is not getting what you want, but being satisfied with what you have. And He said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." Luke 12:15

But godliness with contentment is great gain, 7 for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. 8 But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. 9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. I Timothy 6:6-10

- Contentment recognizes the limitations of possessions.
He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity. 11 When goods increase, they increase who eat them, and what advantage has their owner but to see them with his eyes? 12 Sweet is the sleep of a laborer, whether he eats little or much, but the full stomach of the rich will not let him sleep. Ecclesiastes 5:10-12

- There is never enough money or stuff.
 - Money and stuff never satisfy.
 - The more money and stuff you have, the more other people want it.
 - Money and stuff are temporary.
 - More money and stuff = more worry.
- We become fixated on a desire. - v. 4
 - We become willing to do anything to get it. - vv. 10-15

2. God's Perfect Provision of Forgiveness and Restoration

- He stops the damage. - v. 16
- He shows us our sin and brokenness. - v. 17
- He calls us to the altar. - v. 18

Conclusion

- Satisfy us in the morning with Your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. Psalm 90:14
- As for me, I shall behold Your face in righteousness; when I awake, I shall be satisfied with Your likeness. Psalm 17:15
- Blessed is the one You choose and bring near, to dwell in Your courts! We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, the holiness of Your temple! Psalm 65:4