

LEARNING CONTENTMENT

PHILIPPIANS 4:11

INTRODUCTION:

1. How much is enough? When is enough really enough?
 - a) For Alexander the Great, the world was not enough.
 - b) For Diogenes, a ceramic jar was large enough.
2. What is contentment? (Heb. 13.5; Luke 3.14; 1 Tim. 6.6)

I. PEOPLE

- A. **PHILIPPIANS 4.5:** *“Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand”* (cf. 1 Pet. 4.7)
- B. When we give my attention to the people rather than the accumulation of things, I learn contentment.
 1. Elders are to be gentle. (1 Tim. 3.3)
 2. Preachers are to be gentle. (2 Tim. 2.24)
 3. Christians are to be gentle. (Titus 3.2)
 4. Wives are to be gentle. (1 Pet. 3.4)

II. PRAYER

- A. **PHILIPPIANS 4.6,7:** *“Be anxious for nothing..”*
 1. Prayer: Talking to God. (Luke 18.1)
 2. Supplication: Making a request of God. (Ps. 142.1)
 3. Thanksgiving: Showing gratitude. (Col. 4.2)
- B. How can you have a dependence on God with a mindset of gratitude and still pursue materialism?

III. PERSPECTIVE

- A. **PHILIPPIANS 4.8:** *“think on these things”*
- B. Giving attention to things above and on the material things of this world are incompatible. (Col. 3.1,2)

IV. POSITIVE

- A. People who are materialistic are negative. (Ecc. 5.10)
- B. **PHILIPPIANS 4.13:** *“I can do all things through Christ...”*
 1. This is in a context of material need. (Phil. 4.11,12)
 2. How does this context begin? (Phil. 4.4)

CONCLUSION: Contentment comes from a life in Christ.

NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

SEPTEMBER 27, 2025

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“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

September 27, 2025

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

Your Speech Matters

Growing up, we have been taught to “watch what you say.” We were told to “choose your words carefully.” Did you know that the Bible also cautions us to guard our tongues? What you say matters.

What you say matters to you. Jesus asked the Pharisees, *“How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks”* (Matt. 12.34). What you say is a reflection of what is in your heart and is seen by those who hear you. How do people see you? Do they see you as a gossip? Do they see you as a complainer? Do they see you as having filthy language? Or do they see you as gracious, kind, and helpful?

What you say matters to others. James warned, *“My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment”* (James 3.1). Why will teachers receive stricter judgement? It is because their words can affect the eternal destiny of those who hear them (Micah 3.5; Jer. 23.16; Ezek. 13.19). How are your words or your lifestyle speak to those around you?

What you say matters to God. Sometimes it seems that God does not hear us when we call out to Him (Ps. 13.1-3). Yet the Bible tells us that God not only hears our prayers, but He leans His ear in our direction desiring to hear from us (Matt. 7.7-11; 1 Pet. 3.8).

They say that the pen is mightier than the sword. What you say is powerful and affects the eternal destiny of both you and those who hear you. Proverbs 18.21: *“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.”*
CLP

PARABLE OF THE TARES

MATTHEW 13:24

INTRODUCTION:

1. Are you a seed or a weed? [Read Matthew 13:24-30]
2. **Matthew 13:24:** *"Another parable He put forth to them"*
3. **Matthew 13:24:** *"The kingdom of heaven is like..."* This is a parable about the composition of the church.

I. WHAT DOES THE PARABLE MEAN?

- A. Jesus explains the sower of the good seeds.
 1. **Matthew 13:37:** The sower is the *"Son of Man"*
 2. The Son of Man is the coming Messiah. (Dan. 7:13,14)
- B. Jesus explains the field.
 1. **Matthew 13:38:** *"The field is the world"*
 2. This is where the gospel is sown. (Matt. 26:13, et al.)
- C. Jesus explains the good seeds.
 1. **Matthew 13:38:** *"the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom"* Literally, "belonging to the kingdom"
 2. Those who submitted to the King. (cf. Gen. 6:2)
- D. Jesus explains the tares (weeds)
 1. **Matthew 13:38:** *"tares are the sons of the wicked one."*
 2. Who is the wicked one? (Eph. 6:11,16)
 3. Those who submitted to the devil. (John 8:44)
- E. Jesus explains the sower of tares. (Matt. 13:39; 1 Pet. 5:8)

II. WHAT DOES THE PARABLE MEAN TO ME?

- A. The destiny of the weeds.
 1. **Matthew 13:39,40:** *"Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age."*
 2. **Matthew 13:41:** This will be carried out by the angels.
 3. **Matthew 13:41:** The weeds are *"all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness"*
 4. Their destiny: *"the furnace of fire"* (Matt. 13:42)
- B. The destiny of the good seeds.
 1. **Matthew 13:43:** *"Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun"* Literally, shine out.
 2. Their destiny: *"kingdom of their Father"* (Matt. 13:43)

CONCLUSION: This is a parable about your eternal destiny. Are you a seed or a weed?

Expecting the Unexpected

Do you expect Jesus to come today? If you answer "no," then you better get ready, *"for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect"* (Luke 12:40).

It is a fact. No one knows when Jesus is coming. We sing the song "Jesus Is Coming Soon." From the vantage point of eternity, whenever Jesus comes, whether today or in a thousand years, it could be considered "soon" (Rom. 13:11; 1 Pet. 4:7). However, we cannot think that the coming of Jesus will be today, tomorrow, or even in our lifetime. Neither can we think that the coming of Jesus will be sometime in the distant future. That because we do not know when it will be. Jesus said, *"But of that day no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only"* (Matt. 24:36).

What about the signs Jesus references that would indicate that the time of His coming is near? In Matthew 24, Jesus revealed that there would be signs to watch for that would include *"famines, pestilence, and earthquakes in various places"* (Matt. 24:7). He spoke of tribulation, hatred, and betrayal (Matt. 24:9,10). He described the darkening of the sun and the stars falling from the sky (Matt. 24:29). By these, can we anticipate His coming?

A closer look at the context shows that Jesus is describing a very specific event that would occur within the lifetime of those to whom He spoke (Matt. 24:34). Specifically, Jesus was describing the coming destruction of Jerusalem that would take place in 70 A.D. (cf. Matt. 24:1,2,16). How interesting that so many claim that Jesus provides clues for us as to when the end of time will be, when in fact, Jesus Himself admitted that not even He knew when the end would come. (Mark 13:32).

No one knows when Christ will come. We only know that His coming is a certainty (2 Pet. 3:10-13). Knowing that His coming could be at any time, we need to expect the unexpected and always be ready. If we conclude that Jesus will not come today or at all within our lifetimes, we begin to live contrary to the will of God with the belief that we can repent later (Matt. 24:48,49). Beware, for Jesus may come *"on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour when he is not aware of"* (Matt. 24:50,51).

When Jesus comes, will you feel confident or ashamed? If we are ready for the coming of Christ by living as a faithful Christian, then *"when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming"* (1 John 2:28). CLP