

# Life in the Faith Lane



Philippians 4:11b

...for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be  
content

# Overview



- ☞ Who were the Philippians?
- ☞ What is Contentment?
- ☞ How do I Learn to be Content?
- ☞ How do I Live a Life of Faith?
- ☞ Jesus is Everything

# Who Were the Philippians?



A little Historical context...

# History of Philippi



- ✧ Named after Phillip II in 4<sup>th</sup> Century BC
- ✧ Became a province of Rome in 2<sup>nd</sup> Century BC
- ✧ Became a colony of Rome after the Battle of Philippi in 42BC (Antony and the end of the Roman Republic)
  - ✧ Roman privileges and citizenship



**Paul's 2nd Trip**

0 100 200  
Distance in Miles

# The Church of Philippi



☞ 51 AD – Paul 's second missionary journey (Silas)

☞ Lydia and the faithful women

☞ The demonic girl exorcism

☞ Paul & Silas beaten and imprisoned

☞ God shakes things up

# The Letter to Philippians



- ❧ 62 AD - Paul 's in prison again
- ❧ The church has sent him a monetary gift
- ❧ Paul is thankful, but not for the reason we think
- ❧ V11b: Paul has learned to be content

# What is Contentment?



God's Perspective

# Philippians 4:10-20



10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity. 11 Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: 12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. 13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

14 Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress. 15 Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only. 16 For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities. 17 Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account. 18 Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God. 19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. 20 Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

# Paul is Content



- ❧ Content – having enough regardless of the circumstances we’re in
  
- ❧ Paul’s circumstances
  
- ❧ Street Level Examples:
  - ❧ Esau – Genesis 25:29-34
  - ❧ Saul – 1 Samuel 13:7-10
  - ❧ The Disciples – Luke 9:51-56

# How do I Learn to be Content?



Scriptural Examples

# Scriptural Examples



## ☞ Abraham

- ☞ The Journey begins – with a stop
- ☞ The journey continues
- ☞ A street level response in Egypt
- ☞ More promises and more learning
- ☞ Testing his faith

# Scriptural Examples



❧ What can we learn from Abraham's life?

❧ We are on the same journey

❧ Fits and starts

❧ Live, mistake, repeat

❧ Walk Worthy!

❧ Ephesians 4:1 "I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,"

# Scriptural Examples



## ☞ David

☞ God's Man from a young age

☞ Faith in Action – Goliath

☞ Mistakes and consequences, but still God's Man

# Scriptural Examples



## ☞ Paul

☞ He learned who he was

☞ Growing pains

☞ Walking the talk

☞ He learned and was living the key to being content

☞ John 14:1: ““Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.”

# How do I Live a Life of Faith?



Psalm 27:1-14

# Psalm 27:1-3



1 The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?

2 When the wicked came against me To eat up my flesh, My enemies and foes, They stumbled and fell.

3 Though an army may encamp against me, My heart shall not fear; Though war may rise against me, In this I will be confident.

# Living by Faith



- ☞ Focus on Jesus
  - ☞ We all have enemies
  - ☞ We choose not to fear

# Psalm 27:4-6



- ❧ 4 One thing I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the LORD, And to inquire in His temple.
- ❧ 5 For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; In the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock.
- ❧ 6 And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me; Therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the LORD.

# Living by Faith



☞ Confidence comes from God

☞ The Word, Worship, and Prayer

# PSALM 27:7-12



- 7 Hear, O LORD, when I cry with my voice! Have mercy also upon me, and answer me.
- 8 When You said, “Seek My face,” My heart said to You, “Your face, LORD, I will seek.”
- 9 Do not hide Your face from me; Do not turn Your servant away in anger; You have been my help; Do not leave me nor forsake me, O God of my salvation.

# PSALM 27:7-12



- ❧ 10 When my father and my mother forsake me,  
Then the LORD will take care of me.
  
- ❧ 11 Teach me Your way, O LORD, And lead me in a  
smooth path, because of my enemies.
  
- ❧ 12 Do not deliver me to the will of my adversaries;  
For false witnesses have risen against me, And such  
as breathe out violence.

# Living by Faith



- ☞ Asking for God's help
  - ☞ Seeking His face
  - ☞ More than immediate needs

# Psalm 27:13-14



- ❧ 13 I would have lost heart, unless I had believed That I would see the goodness of the LORD In the land of the living.
- ❧ 14 Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!

# Living by Faith



## ☞ Honesty with God

☞ Overwhelmed by life

☞ Wait on Him

☞ Micah 7:7 “Therefore I will look to the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation; My God will hear me.”

## ☞ I will not be moved

☞ Acts 20:24: “But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.”

# Jesus is Everything!



Our Focus in Life!

# Jesus is Everything



☞ He understands and sympathizes with our weaknesses

☞ Hebrews 4:15-16 “For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

# Jesus is Everything



☞ His last teaching before the Cross began with living in faith

☞ John 14: 1-6 “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know.” Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

# Jesus is Everything



## ☞ Jesus is the focus

☞ 6 great 'I AM' statements: John 6:35, 8:12, 10:7, 11:25, 10:14, and 14:6

☞ Not to walk as people in the world: Ephesians 4:17-24

☞ The Bible is all about the revelation of Jesus Christ: who He is and how we are to live: Colossians 2:3; 1 Corinthians 1:30; John 15:26.

☞ Live at the faith level, not the street level: Galatians 2:20: "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

# Jesus is Everything



☞ We have this hope...

☞ 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 “But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.”

# Psalm 11:1-7



- ❧ 1 In the LORD I put my trust; How can you say to my soul, “Flee as a bird to your mountain”?
- ❧ 2 For look! The wicked bend their bow, They make ready their arrow on the string, That they may shoot secretly at the upright in heart.
- ❧ 3 If the foundations are destroyed, What can the righteous do?
- ❧ 4 The LORD is in His holy temple, The LORD'S throne is in heaven; His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men.

# Psalm 11:1-7



- ❧ 5 The LORD tests the righteous, But the wicked and the one who loves violence His soul hates.
- ❧ 6 Upon the wicked He will rain coals; Fire and brimstone and a burning wind Shall be the portion of their cup.
- ❧ 7 For the LORD is righteous, He loves righteousness; His countenance beholds the upright.