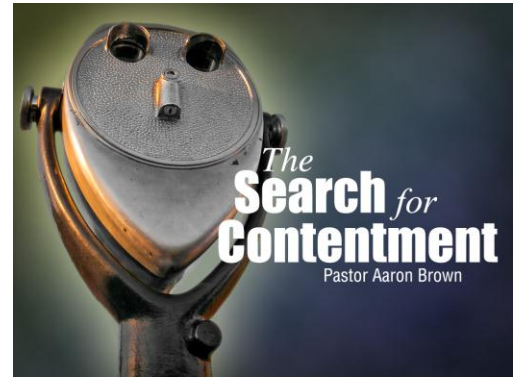


# Sermon Discussion Guide

## November 13, 2011



1. Do you think most Americans have discovered the secret of contentment? Why or why not? Give examples for your answer. What keeps us from contentment?
2. Pastor Brown admitted to owning nearly 100 shirts. Is that a sign of discontent? How many shirts do you think you own? Are you surprised?
3. Pastor Brown mentioned several reasons why Solomon should have been an example of contentment:

**Given a special name / favor from God:** Read 2 Samuel 12:24-25 What does Jedidiah mean?

**Given the Kingship:** Why was it unusual for Solomon to become king?

**Given wisdom:** Read 2 Chronicles 1:7-12. What would you ask for if God gave you a blank check?

**Given riches:** Read Ecclesiastes 2:1-10. What would these verses look like in today's world?

**Given honor:** Read 2 Chronicles 7:1-3. What would you have thought of Solomon if you had been there that day?

4. Why didn't Solomon find contentment in all these things?
5. Read Deuteronomy 17:14-17. What specific three things was the King not to pursue? Read these verses to see how Solomon did in each of them.

\_\_\_\_\_ : 1 Kings 10:26-28

\_\_\_\_\_ : 1 Kings 11:1-3

\_\_\_\_\_ : 1 Kings 10:14-23

6. Why didn't Solomon find contentment in all these things? See Ecclesiastes 5:10
7. Comment on this quote by David Platt in his book Radical.

*It's a constant battle to resist the temptation to have more luxuries, to acquire more stuff, and to live more comfortably. It requires strong and steady resolve to live out the gospel in the middle of an American dream that identifies success as moving up the ladder, getting the bigger house, the nicer car, the better clothes, eating the finer food, and acquiring more things."*

8. According to WorldWatch, the United States, has less than 5 % of the global population, but uses about 25% of the world's resources. How does this make you feel?
9. What do you think of Pastor Brown's paraphrase of Luke 12:15-21?

*There once was a dude who was so wealthy he didn't know what to do with all his stuff. He had stuff everywhere. His garage was full of stuff. His shed was full of stuff. Every room of his house was full of stuff. He had so much stuff he began to worry about how to store it all. So he did the only logical thing that one can do under such circumstances...he went to the mall and bought more stuff. But there was no place to store all this stuff, so he got a great idea. I'll go down to Joe's U-Store, U-Lock rental center and rent a couple of storage units. That way I will have plenty of room to keep all my stuff. And so that is what he did. But that very night God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get all your stuff?" This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God.*