

## I Want More

### Part 1: Why am I dissatisfied?

#### Matthew 6:31-33

**INTRO:** World is full of hate, abuse, mistrust, insecurity. More often than not we only add to it. We try to fill our lives with more only to find our lives/experiences feeling emptier and emptier BUT... there is a way out, there is something better. There is an answer that allows YOU to be part of the solution... it's personal and will transform your life and at the same time it's universal and powerful enough to change the world...

BUT... Before we can talk about our role in a solution we have to identify the problem... So let's talk... together.

**WE:** For most of us... Our reality is created/shaped by disposable and empty and insatiable consumption.

We think... The more/better/newer/more expensive I have... the happier and better I am.

#### **We seek happiness and fulfillment through consuming products and services.**

**Consumerism-** saturates every part of lives

Obvious- **Work:**

- Spend most of our lives/energy/thoughts on way to get more.
- "I produce this and you show my value by what you give for it"

**Relationships:** Affection/Acceptance based on performance.

- Marriage: You give me the energy, love, and services I want from you and I'll do the same for you.
- "Finding the right one or the right one for right now... that will give me the happiness I want"

**Church:** Becomes a vendor of religious products and services.

- "You give me the feeling, the answers, the access to God/better life I want or I'll find the vendor that will"

**How we view ourselves:**

- Is the product I'm offering the world good enough?
- "Am I wealthy enough? Am I attractive enough? Am I successful enough?"

But what we are chasing is impossibly elusive and we can never actually find lasting satisfaction/happiness.

**Consumerism is defined by perpetual dissatisfaction.- Nicki Lisa Cole, Ph.D.**

Creates empty/hollow lives/experiences/relationships where things and people are easily discarded/replaced/upgraded

Never good enough, never have enough, always looking for what will make us happier than what we already have/are.

Dr. Cole also said... **Instead of satisfying our needs, consumerism only produces fear**—fear of not fitting in, of not having the right things, of not looking/acting/speaking right or not belonging to right social class.

It seems impossible to escape this fear. Our entire way of life, economy, social constructs are based on consumerism. It's all we really know.

But there is another way... It extinguishes the insatiable/unsatisfying consumerism and let's us experience true life.

**Escaping consumerism requires a change of allegiance.**

**GOD:** Remedy is counter-intuitive. Literally Counter-Cultural.

Jesus Sermon on Mt- Section teaching about not worrying about having enough to people who very often did not have enough...

**Matthew 6:31-32**

“Dominate the thoughts”: How they view everything, the main thoughts of every day... “Do I have enough, can I get more...”

**We experience less when our thoughts are dominated with wanting more.**

So what is the other choice? What can we do instead of following the consumerism so many seem to just accept?

**V. 33** “Seek the kingdom of God above all else”.

Seek= Be seeking- Continual... everyday... It's the filter/lens through which we see the world, make decisions, dominate our thoughts.

Our allegiance turns from ourselves, views, cravings, comfort, preferences and is instead only to God being King of all of what is us. .

Not a one time... say a prayer, sign a card... now you're living in the KoG. It's not just doing less naughty/sinful things

**Seeking the Kingdom of God is a complete reorientation of how we view and interact with the world, ourselves, and others.**

We stop seeing others as competition or products to use and replace... and instead see everyone as image bearers of God himself.

People have worth not bc of what they produce but bc they have infinite worth to God.

The KoG is completely different than the kingdoms we have seen in human history

Fighting for power/dominance/conquering to impose our will...

The strong rule the weak. Privilege and power gives the authority to rule.

In KoG- First are last and the last are first. The weaker have greater honor. The greatest are those who serve the most.

Privilege/power are used to serve those who cannot give anything in return.

Worrying about having more or enough is completely unnecessary... b/c all of our needs are satisfied.

The result is living righteously... **Living righteously is living a life that brings life, love, and worth to others.**

- Giving your life for those who can give you nothing in return.
- Loving/forgiving/serving enemies- seeking peace
- Standing for/Speaking for/protecting/empowering/raising up the weak.

Talk more in depth in coming episodes

Now... There is something that is often missed when KoG is talked about... A kingdom is made of people/communities...

Seeking the KoG and living righteously can't be done alone. Can't love others as you love yourself if you're alone.

**The Kingdom of God is only realized and lived out within a community.**

Countercultural... we think that if we as individuals can produce what others want, we'll either earn or be able to buy some "thing" that will finally satisfy us.

It must be worth something b/c we can buy it.

But what we truly need/crave we can't buy...so we don't think it actually has value... Unconditional love

Yet what truly brings meaning/comfort/purpose/passion/life?

- When a child simply needs a hug?
- When a friend needs help?
- When a heart is broken?
- Mind is swirling?

Compassion/Presence/Love/Acceptance/Hope... those can't be purchased or earned... they can only be found in a community that is living to serve others. Seeking KoG together.

- Again, more in coming episodes.

But for now...

**YOU:** Read/Memorize: Matthew 6:33

**Question: What would it look like for me to be seeking the Kingdom of God?**

- Specific. But simple start.
- Get you ready for next week

Might be changing how you view your work...

Brother sells insurance- not to make money but b/c he sees how it helps people... giving security and peace of mind.

Other brother- Editor. Not b/c loves books but b/c loves helping others tell their story and where God has taken them.

Might be changing how you view relationships... Instead of looking for the right one for you or complaining that the one you have isn't the right one for you... you can loving start becoming the right one for them.

Change how you view yourself... your worth is not what you produce or earn... you have infinite worth b/c the infinite God died and rose again to give you eternal life.

**WE:** There is something more than trying to feed our insatiable desire to find happiness through consuming.

What we really need we can never buy or earn.

It is only found in the KoG. Experienced in a community seeking to love others as they love themselves... together.

Imagine being able to throw off the insatiable desire to consume and instead experience the depth of beauty, love, peace, belonging, purpose- FULL LIFE that we all are longing for... that we instinctively know is out there somewhere.

Imagine being able to bring this kind of life to those you love.

It's closer than you think... it takes a simple but profound and purposeful change of allegiances...

**The more we try to consume the less we have.**

**The more we seek the Kingdom of God the more life we find.**

### **Summary:**

We are on a constant quest for more and more only to find our lives and experiences feeling emptier and emptier. It doesn't have to be this way. There is a way out that allows YOU to be part of the solution. But, before we can talk about our role in a solution we have to identify the real problem.

## Discussion Questions:

1. How have you seen God's love this week?
2. How have you experienced the negative side of consumerism affecting your relationships, work, decisions, etc.?
3. Read Romans 14:17. What do you think your life would be like if you were continually seeking the Kingdom of God?
4. What is a simple and specific step you can take to further be seeking the Kingdom of God?
5. How can your group pray for you?

## Episode Breakdown:

00:00 This world is tough...  
01:00 Consumerism saturates  
04:05 How do we escape?  
04:45 Jesus teaches not to worry  
06:02 What we can do instead.  
08:05 a backwards Kingdom  
09:30 People & communities...  
11:12 Get ready, some homework  
12:43 A new lens  
14:40 Discussion Questions & announcements

## Main Points:


- We seek happiness and fulfillment through consuming products and services.
- Consumerism is defined by perpetual dissatisfaction.
- Instead of satisfying our needs, consumerism only produces fear.
- Escaping consumerism requires a change of allegiance.
- We experience less when our thoughts are dominated with wanting more.
- Seeking the Kingdom of God is a complete reorientation of how we view and interact with the world, ourselves, and others.
- Living righteously is living a life that brings life, love, and worth to others.
- The Kingdom of God is only realized and lived out within a community.
- The more we try to consume the less we have.
- The more we seek the Kingdom of God the more life we find.

## Challenge this week:

- Read / Memorize: Matthew 6:33
- Question: What would it look like for me to be seeking the Kingdom of God?

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SHOW NOTES  
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 | SAY HI → <https://www.yourcrosscreek.com/welcome/>

 | EPISODE BIBLE VERSES → Matthew 6:31-33

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%206%3A31-33&version=NLT>

 | RESOURCES

→ Consumerism Article (Bryan)-- <https://www.baylor.edu/ifl/christianreflection/ConsumerismarticleBryan.pdf>

→ Consumerism Definition (Dr. Cole)-- <https://www.thoughtco.com/consumerism-definition-3026119>

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