



## TENSION 3

### Content Yet Contending



*The key questions here are the very last ones. Suggest you make sure you leave time for those!*

#### TENSION PAIRS

- John 6:35 v Matthew 5:6 ... Is it NEVER GO HUNGRY or BLESSED IF YOU DO?  
→ Which are you right now: Satisfied or hungry? What does it mean to be hungry? How do you cultivate that? What does it mean to be full? How do you cultivate that?
- John 14:27 v Matthew 10:34-36 ... Is it Jesus' GIFT of PEACE or In following Him, your PEACE will be constantly CHALLENGED?  
→ Should we expect to be at peace all the time? What sort of peace should we have? What are the things that unsettle our peace? Are any of them a good thing?

#### THE TENSION

Inward PEACE v Holy DISSATISFACTION

- \* CONTENT with what I have v HUNGRY for MORE
  - \* GRATEFUL for what God HAS DONE, but knowing there is so much MORE STILL TO DO (Phil 4:11-13, 1 Thess 5:18)
- Right now, would you describe yourself as at peace or dissatisfied? Are you content or hungry for more? Are you grateful or must there be more than this? Are you happy with that balance?
- How difficult is it to balance this tension generally? How are you doing at the moment? What happens if the pendulum swings too far one way or the other for you?
- What makes you angry? On your list, what qualifies as fleshly or holy? Which lead to you overstepping into sin and what leads to a holy, righteous anger? What should you do with fleshly anger? What should you do with righteous anger?
- Can you think of any other passages that reflect this tension? Try the book of Psalms.

#### THE DITCHES

- UNGRATEFUL, DISSATISFIED, RESENTFUL
  - BLASÉ, DISENGAGED, CONTENT WITH THE STATUS QUO
- Why are those two ditches dangerous? Which is more dangerous? In which ditch do you see people stuck more often?

If I'm SATISFIED with where I am now, there are several problems

- I'll never STRIVE for MORE.
  - Much God is CALLING me to will NEVER GET DONE.
  - Constant CHANGE is here to stay.
- These some of the dangers of being too content. Can you think of any others? Do you think that the church in generally is too content or not content enough? Should there be a greater hunger for more? A stronger rage against injustice? A greater dissatisfaction with the state of the world and/or the church?

FLIP: If all of that makes me too ANTSY, might I develop BAD ATTITUDES? INGRATITUDE, RESENTMENT, IRREVERENCE, IMPATIENCE, SELF-RELIANCE  
→ Is it ever okay / sensible / productive to get angry at God?

#### HOW DO WE BALANCE THE SCALES / MANAGE THE TENSION?

1. God's peace is PERFECT, PERSONAL & PERMANENT (Isa 26:3, 2 Pet 1:2, 2 Thess 3:16)

#### HOW DO WE GET THERE?

- MAKE PEACE with GOD (Rom 5:1-2)
  - Become rooted & grounded in your KNOWLEDGE & EXPERIENCE of His LOVE (Eph 3:17-19)
  - Build your house on the ROCK (Matt 9:24-27)
  - Be steadfast in TRUST (Prov 3:5-6)
  - DISEMPower your circumstances (Phil 4:11-13, Rom 8:28)
  - Be quick to PRAY (Phil 4:6-7)
- Why are each of those important? How are you doing with each one? Any area you are weak in and what could you do about it?
- How do you 'disempower' your circumstances? What is the difference between inward and outward peace? Which does Jesus promise and how do you get it?

2. You must learn to be AT PEACE with DISSATISFACTION

There are two types of dissatisfaction: FLESHLY & HOLY

- \* Fleshly is stirred by WORLDLINESS; holy by GODLINESS.
  - \* Fleshly is MATERIAL, EMOTIONAL, IRRATIONAL; holy is SPIRITUAL.
  - \* Fleshly comes from SELFISHNESS; holy from COMPASSION.
  - \* Fleshly leads to SIN; holy leads to GOD.
  - \* Often that dissatisfaction is the HOLY SPIRIT jumping up and down inside of you saying: BE FRUSTRATED, STIRRED, ANGRY ... Now WHAT shall we DO about it?
- In what situations is it okay, actually positive to be dissatisfied? How do you live with that dissatisfaction? Should it be tempered? How do you respond to it? What are the dangers of suppressing it?
- Is any of the dissatisfaction in you currently fleshly? Is any of it holy? How do you tell the difference? How do you treat the two differently?

How does God use holy discontent?

- Those merely satisfied with the STATUS QUO never CHANGE the world.
  - This side of HEAVEN, there will always be MORE.
  - Holy discontent is one of the main ways God leads you to your DESTINY.
- Do any of those comments relate to how you are feeling in yourself at the moment?
- Is there enough holy discontent in the church today? What about in you?
- Which biblical or historical world-changers can you think of that responded to their holy discontent?

3. Make sure you're walking DOWN THE MIDDLE of Satisfaction Street

Some questions for personal analysis & reflection

- Are you AT PEACE with the Lord?
  - Are you ATTENDING to holy discontent?
  - Are you EMBRACING what God has for you in the MEANTIME?
  - Are you cultivating HUNGER in your life?
  - Are you OVEREMPHASISING the pursuit of COMFORT and PROSPERITY?
  - Are you DIALOGUING with the Lord through your discontent?
  - Following today's message, what do you suspect God's calling you to DO?
- How would you answer each of those questions right now? Take some time to go through each one? In summary, are you walking down the middle of Satisfaction Street or are you tottering a little close to the edge. Mind those ditches!