

SIMPLIFY.

PART 8: SIMPLICITY

INTRODUCTION

During this season, we've all experienced new and higher levels of stress, because life has radically changed for all of us. What do you do when that starts to become normal? What if you could actually find a way to thrive spiritually during this uncertainty? Jesus gives us an invitation to live differently. He calls us to a simplified life.

BIBLE VERSES

Matthew 11:28-30

Matthew 6:24

Matthew 6:25, 33

Acts 20:35

Mark 4:19

Luke 12:15

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Pastor Will taught that much of what Jesus taught is opposite our American life today. Do you agree or disagree? Why?
2. Read Mark 4:19. How have you experienced the worries of life and the desire for other things choke out the life-giving fruitfulness of God's Word in your life?
3. Pastor Will taught that our culture has sold us a different gospel than the gospel of the Kingdom of God. This different gospel says that the more you have, the happier you will be. Even though most of us would say we disagree with this, at times our behavior says that we do agree. Talk about a time you have expressed personal belief in this false gospel by your behavior?
4. The purpose of advertising is to convince us that our wants are actually our needs. Name a "want" that you've internally classified as a "need."
5. Read Acts 20:35. Think about a time you've been generous in giving. Describe the feeling you experienced at that time. How does that compare with the feeling you experience when you purchase or receive new stuff?

MOVING FORWARD

Having more stuff doesn't rob us of the rest and peace God offers. It's more of a heart issue--how you *think* about material possessions. The false gospel of our culture says the more you have the happier you will be. But the true gospel of Jesus Christ says the life you've always wanted is available to you right where you are through Jesus. When we live by the principles Jesus taught us we can experience the rest he wants for our lives. Some of those principles are:

- Become more generous
- Pray for wisdom before making a purchase or investment

How can you live out these principles this week?