

July 14 | Sunday

At the Movies: Rocketman

Read [Mark 10:17-31](#)



15 | Mon – The plan and then the results | Read [Mark 10:17-22](#)

Most people work hard to achieve certain goals in life, ie. financial independence, quality education, influential careers. Some believe wealth or fame will make them happy but too often those accomplishments end up deeply disappointing. Jesus is calling you to a simpler life, unfettered by excessive possessions and unwise commitments that can suck life out of your soul. Is there something which seems to be drawing you away from Jesus rather than toward Him? What can you do to reverse that pull?

16 | Tue – A rare quality | Read [1 Timothy 6:6-10](#)

Contentment is a valuable commodity. In a culture where media preaches that you are not enough, that you do not *have* enough and that more stuff *will* make you happier, have you missed the fact that it's all a lie? And not a new one. In the first century, Paul reminded his readers that being content with what they had *and* growing in godly character would protect their hearts from unnecessary grief. How could you apply this advice today?

17 | Wed – Yes, but... | Read [Proverbs 14:30](#) / [Ecclesiastes 4:4](#) / [James 3:16](#)

Where does discontent originate? Solomon wrote that the biggest enemy of contentment is envy. It can rot your bones...maybe not literally but morally. How much effort or how many achievements started by envying what others possess or have accomplished? James warns of the unwanted results if you allow envy and selfish ambition to motivate your choices, even though you do achieve your goals. How can you protect yourself from the envy trap?

18 | Thu – Even in the middle of this? | Read [Philippians 4:10-13](#)

Initially, contentment comes by focusing more on your blessings than on your needs. A bigger challenge is to be content in whatever *situation* you find yourself. Paul learned this secret and speaks of it in verse 11. Now before you say '*but Paul was a spiritual giant,*' look closely at verse 13 to see how he was able to find this deeper level of contentment. Are you in a tough situation and need help finding a way to be content as you wait for God to act? Look up.

19 | Fri – What do you value most? | Read [Philippians 3:3-9](#)

Paul, once known as Saul, had been a religious rock-star in the Jewish world. Everyone had high regard for this righteous man with an impeccable pedigree and a promising future as an influential leader. Then he lost it all after a personal encounter with Jesus. Instead of living out a perfect religious life, Paul became passionate about knowing Jesus; it surpassed all he had previously valued. How did this new focus change his life?

20 | Sat – A strong connection? | Read [Hebrews 11:1, 6](#)

When you don't have what you want or think you need, how do *you* find contentment? Is there a connection between the level of your trust and the degree of contentment you can experience? Here's the question you need to ask yourself, honestly: do I believe God is who He says He is *and* that He will do what He promised? This might be a question you need to revisit frequently. Read the rest of Heb. 11 for the stories of those who answered with a resounding YES and join them.