



Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

1 Timothy 6:6-10

Greed

There was a TV show when I was in high school called "My Super Sweet Sixteen." Each episode featured a very spoiled teenager's 16th birthday. Famous bands were hired to perform at the party. Massive cakes were constructed. Banquet halls were rented. Inevitably each episode included a scene where the birthday boy or girl was mortified that their parents had bought them the wrong gift: "You bought the red Ferrari when I wanted the blue one!" It was hard to watch these moments without cringing.

And yet the truth is there's a Super Sweet Sixteen kid living in each one of our hearts. He is enraged that God isn't giving him what he wants. We stare at another kid's brand new Air Jordans during class. We wonder what it would be like to be the girl at school who can afford to never wear the same skirt twice. We watch someone pull into the school parking lot in their own shiny black SUV while our mom drops us off in a rusty old minivan. The Super Sweet Sixteen kid is furious. Why don't we have those things?

Contrast that with Jesus gradually losing everything as he marched to the cross. Finally, even his clothes are divided among his executioners. The Super Sweet Sixteen kid is quieted by a Jesus who was 100% content. Jesus would not rest until we had what we actually needed. He did not turn away from the huge price tag for our salvation. Instead he cried out from the cross, "It is finished!" He meant that the debt of our sins was paid in full.

When your heart rages about what you do not have, take it to the cross; let it grow quiet when it sees what Jesus has already done. God has already given us what we need most: his unconditional love and forgiveness. He won't stop giving us whatever else we truly need.

PRAYER:

Lord God, create in me a clean heart, one that is content with your forgiveness. Teach me to rejoice in all your undeserved gifts.