

Sermon Outline – September 21, 2014  
**Simplify: Being Content with Job and Money**  
Matthew 20:1-16

1. Do you like your job? Are you content with your income?
2. When God created the first human beings, what work did God give them to do, according to Genesis 1-2?
  - What is the implication about their work?
  - Our first parents liked their job and were content with their “income.” This was part of God’s \_\_\_\_\_ of creation.
  - We rebelled against God and we were no longer \_\_\_\_\_ with what God has provided for us.
  - Part of the consequence for our rebellion is that we now experience what is described in Genesis 3:17-18, where God says,  
*“Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful \_\_\_\_\_ you will eat food from it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food.”*
3. Many centuries later, in the fullness of time, God brought forth his plan to \_\_\_\_\_ when God came to the earth as Jesus.
  - Most often we think of God’s restoration of his original blessing to be what?
  - God’s restoration through Jesus also includes living a \_\_\_\_\_ now, on this side of the grave.
  - *“I have learned the \_\_\_\_\_ in any and every situation.”* –Paul in Philippians 4:12
4. Focus question: Does the restoration work of God through Jesus offer us real hope to live a new life here and now and is part of living that new life being content with our jobs and income?

5. Who are the players in the Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard? (Matthew 20:1-16)
  - Landowner is \_\_\_\_\_ The workers are \_\_\_\_\_ Working in the Vineyard is \_\_\_\_\_
  - This parable is most often and accurately understood to be about \_\_\_\_\_.
6. If we imagine the event Jesus describes in the parable really happened, what became the problem?
  - At 9 a.m. what was the attitude of the first workers chosen?
7. *From the parable:* Four attitudinal \_\_\_\_\_ that lead to discontent and how we can learn to keep it simple so as to like our jobs and be content with our income.
  - #1 Comparing our income to others
  - #2 Taking our eye off the generosity of God
  - #3 Spending more than our income
  - #4 Finding our primary identity and ultimate worth in what we do and not in what God has done in Christ.
8. The final Word: