

# **A Balanced Life At An Imbalanced Time**

Insights from Hebrews 13:4-6  
Barney Kasdan, June 14th, 2020

## **I. Kosher Sex (v4)**

- Marriage is honorable
- Arrange + Engage
- Kiddushin = Sanctified
- Undeclared / No Porn
- Our Blessing
- God will judge

## **II. Wise Shekels (v5)**

- No love of money
- Be content
- God will never leave us

## **III. Laser Focus (v6)**

- The Lord My Helper
- No Fear
- Confidence
- What is man?

## **This Week's Discussion Guide:**

Welcome to our ninth week of this 11 week study of Hebrews 11-13. Our last week of small groups for this season will be the week of Sunday, June 28th.

At GPC, we are big on small groups :). Even when we have to zoom! May our church family grow warmer together even through this social distancing season as we connect with each other through our phones and computers.

The good news is that we don't have to wait to be physically together to meet together, develop friendships and encourage each other as we learn to apply God's truths to our everyday lives.

### **Getting Started:**

This past Sunday was our second 'soft launch' as we are slowly returning to gathering together again on Sunday mornings as a church family :). We increased the size of our groups a bit last Sunday with all of our safety protocols in place. Most of our church family stayed home or gathered together in a home to watch one of our services we streamed live.

If you stayed at home and watched a service or gathered somewhere else to watch with some friends or attended one of our venues on our campus or chose to watch a recorded Sunday morning service later on - THANKS for your patience with us as we continue to walk through this season together.

To get us started ... these past few months have stretched all of us. What have you learned (good or not so good) about yourself during these past few months?

We are all aware of the relational tensions in our country. How can you be a part of healing for our country from the racial tensions that have surfaced these past few weeks?

## Quick Review:

Let's re-read Hebrews 13:4-6

From this passage and Sunday's message, and looking back at your notes, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, confused you, encouraged you, or stretched your thinking?

Here are some questions Barney encouraged us to reflect on based on his message:

1. What are some elements in our current culture that cheapen sexual values?
2. How can Christ-followers reinforce good sexual values today?
3. How has the Pandemic affected the world's view of materialism? How about us?
4. What can we do to reflect God's values in the midst of our troubled society?
5. The Lord "helped" King David. How has the Lord "helped" you recently?

## Digging Deeper:

1. One of the topics that was addressed last Sunday was contentment. Biblical contentment does not mean the lack of ambition. God gives us the freedom to ask for blessings and increased provision.

How do you balance Solomon's prayer in Proverbs 30:7-9 with our freedom to ask for blessings beyond our needs?

How can Deuteronomy 8:10-18 help us further understand the balance between contentment and a desire to succeed?

2. The book of Ecclesiastes records King Solomon's search for contentment in a world where he had everything at his fingertips.

Let's read what he learned by reading the following passages and share what we observe.

Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

Ecclesiastes 4:4-8

Ecclesiastes 5:10-16

What is your greatest challenge in being content with what you have?

3. In the late 1800's, Horatio Spafford wrote the famous hymn, *It is Well with My Soul*, in response to the tragic death of his daughters in a shipwreck. The following is the first verse of that song: "When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea-billows roll, whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to know; It is well, it is well with my soul."

His words lead us to believe that he had found contentment even amidst horrible circumstances. Biblical contentment does not mean we have to love everything just the way it is. But it does mean we can cope with even those things we most dread.

How can Psalm 46:1-3 and Psalm 46:10-11 help us better learn to be content even in hard times that we would rather avoid?

## Wrapping Up:

Looking back on the message from Sunday and from our discussion, what is one truth that stands out to you that you can prayerfully ask God to help apply to your life somehow?

## Praying Up: :)

Before we wrap up our sharing time, let's prayer for one another!

What are some specific requests we have that we can pray for?