

Overview video: <https://vimeo.com/375547538>

Simplicity.

In our cultural moment, we are constantly being peppered with a desire for more. Externally, we absorb hundreds of advertisements everyday baiting us to spend more. Internally, we desire increased comfort, pleasure, and status that can come from possessions. Our society is bent toward consumption. It's bent towards more. But we can never be satisfied with "more".

What if we can find greater joy in wanting less? If that sounds interesting, keep reading.

John Mark Comer's book highlights a critical way from the life of Jesus to fight back against the Behemoth of consumerism. It is living a life based on simplicity.

Read I Timothy 6:7-9

⁷For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. ⁸But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. ⁹Those 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.

Read Matthew 6:19-21

¹⁹"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Read Matthew 6:24-33

²⁴"No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

²⁵"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life^[a]?

²⁸ “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. ²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ³⁰ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹ So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Discussion questions:

- Do you ever find yourself overwhelmed by advertisements? If so, where?
- Have you ever been disappointed by a possession that you really wanted?
- What is one way that you have found joy from having fewer material needs & wants?
- Who do you know that seems to have great joy despite not having many things?
- What is one way that you have noticed that your possessions have had an unhealthy amount of control over you?
- If you were inspired to reduce your number of possessions, where would you start?
- What does this discussion inspire you to do to simplify your life?