



OWNED, Part 2

INTRODUCTION

We tend to give ourselves a pass on our attitudes when circumstances don't go our way. We spill coffee on a dress shirt or have a bad morning commute or are bothered by allergies and we think it makes it okay to treat everyone around us like they're in our way. But sometimes deeper circumstances rock our worlds—the bad diagnosis, the layoff, the death of a loved one. Whether temporary or life-altering, the Bible offers wisdom to help us find contentment despite our circumstances.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Talk about a time when you were on the receiving end of someone else's bad day? How did you feel?
2. Did you have a bad day this week? How did you respond?
3. Have you ever seen someone demonstrate contentment despite difficult circumstances? Where did that person's contentment come from? What impression did that person's attitude make on you?
4. Read Philippians 4:12-13. Why is it difficult to believe God's promise in these verses?
5. What tough circumstance do you face? How might your heavenly Father strengthen you through this circumstance?
6. What is your best next step in pursuing the contentment that God promises? What can this group do to support you in taking that next step this week?

MOVING FORWARD

In the midst of your difficult circumstances, before you respond, pause and pray to your heavenly Father. Let God step into the gap between what happens to you and how you respond. Let him help you. Let him strengthen you. That's where you'll find contentment.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

Philippians 4:12-13