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Becoming Christlike Women

Week 4 | Trouble Spot #2: Comparison and Discontentment

Foundational Passage: Genesis 29:31–30:24

³¹When the LORD saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb, but Rachel was barren. ³²And Leah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Reuben, for she said, “Because the LORD has looked upon my affliction; for now my husband will love me.” ³³She conceived again and bore a son, and said, “Because the LORD has heard that I am hated, he has given me this son also.” And she called his name Simeon. ³⁴Again she conceived and bore a son, and said, “Now this time my husband will be attached to me, because I have borne him three sons.” Therefore his name was called Levi. ³⁵And she conceived again and bore a son, and said, “This time I will praise the LORD.” Therefore she called his name Judah. Then she ceased bearing.

³⁰When Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, she envied her sister. She said to Jacob, “Give me children, or I shall die!” ²Jacob's anger was kindled against Rachel, and he said, “Am I in the place of God, who has withheld from you the fruit of the womb?” ³Then she said, “Here is my servant Bilhah; go in to her, so that she may give birth on my behalf, that even I may have children through her.” ⁴So she gave him her servant Bilhah as a wife, and Jacob went in to her. ⁵And Bilhah conceived and bore Jacob a son. ⁶Then Rachel said, “God has judged me, and has also heard my voice and given me a son.” Therefore she called his name Dan. ⁷Rachel's servant Bilhah conceived again and bore Jacob a second son. ⁸Then Rachel said, “With mighty wrestlings I have wrestled with my sister and have prevailed.” So she called his name Naphtali.

⁹When Leah saw that she had ceased bearing children, she took her servant Zilpah and gave her to Jacob as a wife. ¹⁰Then Leah's servant Zilpah bore Jacob a son. ¹¹And Leah said, “Good fortune has come!” so she called his name Gad. ¹²Leah's servant Zilpah bore Jacob a second son. ¹³And Leah said, “Happy am I! For women have called me happy.” So she called his name Asher.

¹⁴In the days of wheat harvest Reuben went and found mandrakes in the field and brought them to his mother Leah. Then Rachel said to Leah, “Please give me some of your son's mandrakes.” ¹⁵But she said to her, “Is it a small matter that you have taken away my husband? Would you take away my son's mandrakes also?” Rachel said, “Then he may lie with you tonight in exchange for your son's mandrakes.” ¹⁶When Jacob came from the field in the evening, Leah went out to meet him and said, “You must come in to me, for I have hired you with my son's mandrakes.” So he lay with her that night. ¹⁷And God listened to Leah, and she conceived and bore Jacob a fifth son. ¹⁸Leah said, “God has given me my wages because I gave my servant to my husband.” So she called his name Issachar.

¹⁹And Leah conceived again, and she bore Jacob a sixth son. ²⁰Then Leah said, “God has endowed me with a good endowment; now my husband will honor me, because I have borne him six sons.” So she called his name Zebulun. ²¹Afterward she bore a daughter and called her name Dinah.

²²Then God remembered Rachel, and God listened to her and opened her womb. ²³She conceived and bore a son and said, “God has taken away my reproach.” ²⁴And she called his name Joseph, saying, “May the LORD add to me another son!”

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Big Idea: Comparison and discontentment keep women focused on what God has withheld rather than on what God has given, but Christlike Women bring their pain to the Lord and find real satisfaction in Him.

I. The Trap of Comparison

- A. Comparison often begins with **real pain**. (Genesis 29:31)
- B. Comparison defines our lives based on what we **don't** have rather than what we have been given. (Genesis 29:32–35)
- C. Comparison turns sisters into **competitors**. (Genesis 30:1–21)

1 Peter 4:10: “As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”

Proverbs 14:30: “A tranquil heart is life to the body, but jealousy is rottenness to the bones.”

- D. Comparison often leads to **controlling** behavior.

II. Contentment shows us another way.

1 Timothy 6:6: “But godliness with contentment is great gain.”

- A. Contentment takes our real pain to God in **prayer**. (Genesis 30:22)
Psalm 62:8: “Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts before him. God is our refuge.”
ASK: Have I given this desire, this deep pain, to God in prayer?
- B. Contentment expresses **gratitude** for what we have been given.
Psalm 16:5–6: “LORD, you are my portion and my cup of blessing; you hold my future. The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.”
ASK: What gifts from God have I stopped noticing because I am focused on what I lack?
- C. Contentment **celebrates** God’s grace in other women’s lives.
Romans 12:15: “Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.”
ASK: Can I rejoice in what God has given *her* without believing He has rejected me?
- D. Contentment trusts that God is in **control**.
ASK: Where am I demanding that God work according to my timeline?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Where are you most tempted to compare yourself to other women? How does that comparison impact your peace and joy?
2. What did you learn from Rachel and Leah about how comparison affects relationships? Have you seen that truth in your life?
3. What did you learn about bringing your pain to God in prayer? How does that help us reject jealousy and resentment?
4. Look at the four habits that Christlike women can practice to grow in contentment. Which one do you most want to start doing today? Review the questions for each habit and share your answers.
5. How can the group pray for you this week?

HOMEWORK

Memorize: 1 Timothy 6:6 “Godliness with contentment is great gain.”

Action item: Search your heart and be honest with God this week.

1. When have comparison and discontentment led you to make foolish decisions?
2. Write out an honest prayer to the Lord, asking Him to take your pain, trusting that He is in control.
3. Celebrate God’s blessing in another woman’s life this week.