

**Reading:** Luke 15:11-20

**Topic:** Avoiding The Trap Of  
The Greener Pasture

**INTRODUCTION:** Sometimes in life we may develop a thinking pattern that leads us to \_\_\_\_\_  
that somewhere else there is a \_\_\_\_\_ place, better than where I am now.

### I. THE MISTAKE OF ADAM & EVE:

#### **A. The Paradise On Earth:**

1. When God created the world, He prepared it to be inhabited by \_\_\_\_\_, and the conditions on earth were such that it could sustain \_\_\_\_\_ for many in a comfortable atmosphere. Gen. 1:31
2. The first inhabitants who were created by God and placed on \_\_\_\_\_ were given a beautiful place to live called the Garden of Eden and it contained everything they \_\_\_\_\_ to live comfortably. Gen.2: 8-10

#### **B. The Adversary's Tactic:**

1. The devil used a serpent to speak to Eve and convince her that there was imperfection in the \_\_\_\_\_ where she and her husband now were and that there was a \_\_\_\_\_ way. Gen. 3:1-5
2. Using that tactic worked and Eve bought the lies that the devil told to her, causing her to \_\_\_\_\_ God and the action that she \_\_\_\_\_ ruined their lives for the next few hundred years. Gen. 3:6-8

### II. THE MISTAKE OF THE PRODIGAL SON:

#### **A. He Had What He Needed:**

1. The dream of something \_\_\_\_\_ somewhere else led a young man to not realize how blessed he was to \_\_\_\_\_ what he had right where he was at.
2. This young man had food to eat, clothes to \_\_\_\_\_, a home to live in, parents who \_\_\_\_\_ and cared for him, even servants to wait on him.

#### **B. The Big Mistake:**

1. The young man got the idea in his \_\_\_\_\_ that there was something \_\_\_\_\_ for him somewhere else, so he demanded his inheritance and left home to go find his \_\_\_\_\_ place. Lk. 15:11,12
2. The far away pasture looked greener for a while, but when his \_\_\_\_\_ was all gone, and his friends were all gone, the young man had a \_\_\_\_\_ awakening. Lk. 15:13-16
3. The prodigal son realized that he had left something \_\_\_\_\_ for an impossible scenario, thinking that there was something \_\_\_\_\_, when in reality, he hadn't appreciated his blessings. Lk. 15:17
4. He was very fortunate to have had a \_\_\_\_\_ who was kind and merciful, and instead of turning his son away when he came back, he opened his arms to him and welcomed him \_\_\_\_\_. Lk. 15:20

### III. THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES:

#### **A. Count Your Blessings:**

1. Before one rashly makes the \_\_\_\_\_ and leaves a present situation thinking that there is something better elsewhere, one needs to count the blessings and observe the \_\_\_\_\_ points about where you are right now, and you may be surprised how many blessings that you already \_\_\_\_\_ now. Eph. 1:3
2. Several years ago, a pastor had a good church, people who were behind him and had great \_\_\_\_\_

with the people in the community, but a group of men from a larger \_\_\_\_\_ and community came to make him an offer that he thought was better, so he left something \_\_\_\_\_ and went there, only to discover that it was a place of trouble and strife. He so much regretted his move!

3. When one takes the time to really look at the benefits of the present \_\_\_\_\_ that one is in, it may bring realization that is like the song – “I am \_\_\_\_\_.” Ps. 103:1,2

### ***B. Learning To Be Content:***

1. The Apostle Paul was a man who had learned that in his \_\_\_\_\_ there were great blessings along with times when things were far from \_\_\_\_\_, but he stated that he had \_\_\_\_\_ to be content in his present circumstances. Ph. 4:11

2. The Lord at times will allow us to go to the school of “\_\_\_\_\_ to be content,” so that we may develop an awareness and appreciation for the \_\_\_\_\_ that God has already placed in our life. Ps. 34:8

### ***C. The Promised Land:***

1. People often make the mistake of comparing the Promised Land of the Old Testament to \_\_\_\_\_ but that is an incorrect comparison.

2. The Promised Land was called by God, the land flowing with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, which referred to the richness and blessings of the land, but it was not a \_\_\_\_\_ place. Lev. 20:24

3. The Promised Land had \_\_\_\_\_, and the Word of God states that the Lord arranged those situations to be there so His people would not become so comfortable in their \_\_\_\_\_ that they would forget to rely on Him. Jud. 3:1,2

**CONCLUSION:** Our adversary, the devil, will attempt to sow a spirit of discontent into our \_\_\_\_\_ and cause us to lose sight of the \_\_\_\_\_ of God that we already have, so may we become wise to this tactic and not fall into the trap that will lead us into a place of trouble.