

## Talk: modern proverbs

I think that I've come to the conclusion that our world lives in a constant state of either envy or discontentment. We often envy what other people have, or we think our home is too small, or we resent the fact that our TV is an older model, and our smartphone doesn't have the latest 4G technology.

And so, we want what others have – we think that the grass will be greener on the other side! But it's not necessarily true!

### Mention the laminate...

The truth is, is that many of us are trying to fill a big empty space that exists within our lives. And the problem is, is that we try to fill that empty space with things that can't satisfy.

We look to fill it with *stuff* – you know, material stuff - or money, but we only end up wanting more! Or we try to fill it with relationships or sex, but we often end up feeling even more empty and depressed than when we first started!

The thing is, not all of these things are necessarily are necessarily bad things, but when they become our be all to end all, we end up being discontented or envious, because those things were never meant to fulfil us.

So, what can we do to find contentment in such a restless world, and why is it, that so many of us can't find it?

The only place that we can really find true fulfilment and contentment in Jesus. True contentment isn't something that we find in *things, people or circumstances*; it can only be discovered in a relationship with a God who cares about us.

In the Bible, in an Old Testament book called Jeremiah, God reminds us that he has got a plan for us, plans to prosper us, and not harm us. Plans to give us a hope and a future.

When we understand that we are valued and loved by God, and that God has this plan and purpose for us, then a lot of the stuff that made us unhappy, or envious, or discontented, loses its power over us.

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When we understand how deep and real and trustworthy God's love is for us, through Jesus, we can start to put our trust in in him, and we can start to show love and compassion to other people, rather than always be looking out for ourselves.

In fact, wouldn't it be great if we could help to make someone else's life a little better, so that the grass on their side is as green as our side?