

4-12-26 Consumer - The Goal Study Guide

Overview

This message launches a new series challenging believers to move from a **consumer mindset** (“What am I getting out of this?”) to a **contributor mindset** (“What can I give to make this better?”) in every relationship—especially with God, spouse, children, family, and friends. Using Luke 6:35 as the foundation, the speaker shows how a consumer approach treats relationships like vending machines, while a contributor approach treats them like a team or garden. Three core truths contrast the two mindsets and call listeners to make their highest goal in every relationship **contribution**, not consumption.

Main Points

1. Consumer vs. Contributor Mindset

- Consumer: Focuses on “What am I getting?” Keeps score, complains when needs aren’t met, gives only when it benefits them.
- Contributor: Focuses on “What can I give?” Invests time/energy even when inconvenient, takes responsibility, builds the relationship together.

2. **Consumers take, but contributors sow** (Galatians 6:7-10) Consumers want instant gratification and today’s portion. Contributors invest today (prayer, time with spouse, reading Scripture) knowing today’s returns come from yesterday’s sowing.

3. **Consumers gripe at the problem, contributors trust the process** (Exodus 16) Consumers demand and complain when God doesn’t act on their timetable. Contributors repent of idolizing God’s hand over His heart, choose trust, and reaffirm who God is.

4. **Consumers want a fling, contributors want a relationship** (Revelation 3:14-20) Consumers treat Jesus like a weekend date or vending machine (lukewarm). Contributors pursue covenant relationship—authentic, committed, and wholehearted—because Jesus is the reward, not what He can do for them.

Reflection Questions

- In my most important relationships (God, spouse, kids, friends), am I primarily a consumer or a contributor? What do my actions show?
- What is the actual goal I have for my relationship with Jesus? With my spouse/family?
- Where am I demanding “today’s portion” instead of sowing into tomorrow?
- When do I gripe at God’s process instead of trusting it?
- Do I treat Jesus like a fling (quick prayer/reading when convenient) or a covenant relationship?

Application

- This week, pick one relationship and do one intentional act of contribution with no expectation of return (e.g., serve your spouse, pray for someone without telling them, invest time in your kids).
- Shift your prayer time: move from a to-do list for God to simply being with Him and listening.
- Before any complaint in a relationship, ask: “What can I give here?”
- Daily remind yourself: “Jesus is the reward, not what He can do for me.”
- Review your schedule and protect time for the relationships that matter most (Jesus first, then spouse/kids).

Group Discussion Prompts

1. Share a personal example (without naming names) of a consumer mindset you've seen or experienced in a relationship. How did it affect the relationship?
2. Looking at the three main truths, which one challenges you the most right now and why?
3. How does your relationship with God directly impact your relationships with others? (Reference Romans 12:17-18 and the "How goes your relationship with God..." statement.)
4. What would a contributor mindset look like this week in your marriage/family/church? Brainstorm one practical step together.
5. Read Revelation 3:20 aloud. What would it look like for our group (and each of us personally) to move from "lukewarm consumerism" to the intimate relationship Jesus is inviting us into?

Wrap-up Prayer Prompt

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any consumer patterns in your heart and empower you to become a wholehearted contributor in every relationship, starting with Jesus.