



The Gospel According to Luke Wk. 50 “The Joy of the Lord” By Pastor Jody May

Luke 10:21-24 ESV

Jesus Rejoices in the Father's Will

²¹ In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²² All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”

²³ Then turning to the disciples he said privately, “Blessed are the eyes that see what you see! ²⁴ For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.”

Introduction:

Joy, the accumulation of a wealth of good thoughts and feelings in one’s heart shown by life lived displaying those traits.

Introduction: 1988 Top Hit, *Don’t Worry be Happy*, by Bobby McFerrin.

What people did not know was that Bobby was actually a talented Jazz Musician and was developing a theory on how music effects the emotional state of a person, his answer for depression is music.

Here’s why that is interesting, because there is a command in scripture, in the NT to be specific, were not talking about OT Covenantal Law, for the churches especially churches that have been touched by the hand of persecution.

Philippians 4:4 ESV

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.”

Paul writes this note to the church at Philippi to encourage them in their suffering while **he himself was writing from prison in Rome**. You see the imperative here



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is not to just try to be joyful when you are enduring through the pains of life **but that you must rejoice at all times!** In Philippians it doesn't state its' ok when you are depressed to lose your joy, no, **joy is based on the accumulation of knowledge and good thoughts bound in your heart by the HS** so that when hard times hit, endure. **Joy is not dependent on what your current circumstance is!**

I think we can learn something from last week on possibly how to help steer clear of the joy eating monster that lurks in our hearts. Last week Jesus celebrated with the disciples that they had power over demons and that they can't be harmed by them, but then not to diminish that feat he says, **“Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this.” (10:20)** Don't get caught up in that fact instead what those things are showing you is that your name is written in the “Book of Life”. **Don't get caught up in 'YOUR' Success in the kingdom but rather be caught up in what God is doing, 'HIS' successes.**

The issue is **we are approval seeking junky addicts**, we constantly want to know how we are doing in life so we spend a lot of energy looking for ways to justify ourselves, **to show we are good enough**, so we set up imaginary finish lines in our heads that upon completion we say, look I won! I have success!

Guys often will check other dudes around their own age and compare GFs/wives, financial compensation in jobs, hobby activities and toys, size of estates, all to see if you are successful telling your heart you should rejoice. Gals on the other hand often compare how the man treats them, how well off the kids are, public image, size of the savings, and do the parents still approve, all to see if they have been successful. **The issue with all of this is that we get caught up in “do our present circumstances tell me I have been successful AND THEN I can be joyful.”** When the reality is the Gospel says **your joy comes from understanding and celebrating that Jesus was successful in the only thing that matters your SALVATION!**

Now that we know that, let's look at verses 21-24 for it shows a very intriguing fact. There is only one time that it is recorded in the Gospels where Jesus exudes **unsatiated JOY**. That doesn't mean to say He suffered from lack of it, but that Luke wants to record from eyewitness accounts this moment of Jesus all caught



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up in the moment. I believe, that what He’s celebrating is how their name, **how OUR name**, gets a place in the book of life!

1. He’s ECSTATIC about God’s Sovereignty in Salvation.

²¹ In that same hour he **rejoiced** in the Holy Spirit and said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.

Jesus is **agalliaō**. **Exceedingly joyful!** He’s reflecting on what happened with the disciples, thinking about the urgency of that situation, to get the word out about how the Kingdom of God has come, that his name carried authority to run demons out when they heard the gospel, AND He’s pondering how those that should have known did not? The Pharisees, the Scribes, the Sadducees all couldn’t see the truth right in front of their eyes who Jesus was, and He celebrates that fact.

Jesus is excited to know and comprehend that **Salvation comes from God alone**, that God chooses who He will reveal the Gospel to for Salvation, and that He chooses not to reveal it to others. God has kept the rulers of this world from the control of the Kingdom of God, He has reached past them, and puts the Kingdom back in reach of the common man. The Father’s will is to save His children and will not let it be up to chance, as Paul makes note of it to the early church:

“But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God **chose you** as the **firstfruits** to be **saved**.” **2 Thessalonians 2:13 ESV**

Yes, Jesus believed in the doctrine of election, yes it is an actual teaching of the ancient church we see in Thessalonians, Ephesians, Romans, Hebrews, etc., Yes Augustine picked up on it in the 4th cent., yes that means the Catholic church abandoned that in the middle ages, yes this is what Luther, Calvin, Zwingli and others fought for. **The church does not have the power to save, nor does man**



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have the power within Himself, but rejoice with Jesus that someone DOES has the power to save you!

According to the LBCF 1689, Chp. 3.5, on God’s Decree

5. Those people who are predestined to life were chosen by God before the foundation of the world, according to his eternal and unchangeable purpose and the secret counsel and good pleasure of his will. He chose them in Christ for eternal glory, purely as a result of his free grace and love,¹¹ without anything else about them serving as a condition or cause moving him to do so.¹²

¹¹Ephesians 1:4, 9, 11; Romans 8:30; 2 Timothy 1:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:9. ¹²Romans 9:13, 16; Ephesians 2:5, 12.

The reality is my family Jesus is celebrating what was declared to the Jews over 700 years before He was born.

Isaiah 46:10 ESV

“declaring the end from the beginning
and from ancient times things not yet done,
saying, ‘My counsel shall stand,
and I will accomplish all my purpose,’”

Jesus is celebrating and so should you that God’s plan to save His people cannot be thwarted by anyone, He will accomplish it. Maybe this morning for you, if you have a problem with the doctrine of election seek out what is the point of contention in your heart. Perhaps you are wanting to determine **successful salvation in your life by your actions**, that makes you like the idea that you get to choose God if you so desire, but the reality is God graciously enlightens people/US to Himself steering US away from OUR JUST condemnation. Two suggestions about dealing with this, pray and thank Him for making you aware of just how much you needed Him, and 2 spend time with people in this church figuring out just how this doctrine pans out in your life. I promise you, you will not be disappointed. I didn’t grow up in this doctrine either, but I praise God that He found me and delivered to me this good news!



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2. He’s ENJOYING His position of Supreme Power.

²² All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”

At this moment in time Jesus is enjoying the fact that He sees God’s plan clearly and that He’s a part of it. Jesus is experiencing the closeness of the relationship He has with the Father and is rejoicing in the fact that He gets to serve His father in this manner. That **He has become the saving agent of the world**. Jesus is rewarded with the knowledge after a life of sacrifice, the surrendering of the humanistic desires, to forgo what every human pursues; life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness that because of his humility and the laying down His right to assume the earthly Davidic throne at that moment, **that His Father has determined that all men must go through Jesus to know Him**. Who better to guard the door to God than the one that mastered the humility required to get to Him? Jesus has been awarded the throne of our hearts, we have become His to rule and we even get a glimpse of that a few years after this in the book of Revelation.

In Rev. 2-3 read those letters to the 7 Churches that John records for the ascended Lord. Jesus has all the power and the authority, and He has the position to remove or bless any church He so chooses. **BTW**, in the scripture, it is important to note that the risen Lord always deals with churches not so much with individuals. That’s why you need a church, there is something to how Jesus administers grace and discipline, He does it through a body of believers usually not out on your own.

Jesus is offering us the alternative this morning in trying to find joy in YOUR SUCCESS. Joy cannot be found in what you achieve unless your achievements are connected to the advancement of God’s Kingdom. **True Joy comes from you being caught up in the Lordship of Christ, NOT SELF!** What does His Lordship look like?



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- Jesus is your Prophet Deut. 18:15-18 – He gets the **Last Word, listen to Him.**
- Jesus is your Priest Heb. 4:14-16 – His sacrifice drained God’s wrath on you dry, get behind Him.
- Jesus is your King Is. 11:10 – His Sovereignty determines where you will spend eternity, cling to Him.

I pray your seeing this path to true joy but to solidify that here’s the third thing He gets excited about:

3. He’s EXCITED to see the HS power working in us!

²³ Then turning to the disciples he said privately, “Blessed are the eyes that see what you see! ²⁴ For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.”

He’s reiterating the fact that if you are getting and understanding why Election is so spectacular, and you are getting why you should celebrate that Jesus is your Lord, then you are blessed (happy) to see this. **That means that the HS has opened your eyes to the truth!** The Apostle Paul understands this joy firsthand, he knows it means the HS has quickened you, made you alive, that’s what tells you you’re saved!

Ephesians 1:18 ESV

Having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,

That is a prayer by Paul for the Ephesians to have their eyes opened, to receive understanding of Salvation, those riches of the glorious inheritance of the saints.

Let me just say this one more time: Joy, the accumulation of a wealth of good thoughts and feelings in one’s heart shown by life lived displaying those traits.



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Joy comes from understanding you are rich! Richer than the richest lost man on the planet. What you have is unmeasurable, but you will try to understand it in eternity and in seeing the depth of it, God will be further glorified. And when that joy is in your heart replacing the joy of humanistic success you will be able to, as Paul says in **Philippians 4:13**, “**I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.**”

Here’s your challenge as you leave today – The things you catch yourself rejoicing over, connect them to God.

- How does it glorify Him here on earth?
- How does it show God working in your life?
- How would you share it with others as a testimony for His name?

This week live in joy with that which makes the Lord happy; **that God has saved you, Jesus is your Lord, and your joy will increase as the HS makes it more and more apparent to you.**

PRAY

COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

Go in the name of the Father that decreed He would save you while you were still a sinner.

Go in the name of the Son that worked, works, and will continue to work for your Salvation and Rejoices over it.

Go in the name and the power of the HS that opens our eyes to the riches of our Salvation, preserving in us eternal life prompting our hearts to share it.