

**12/12/21 - Luke 2:8-20**  
**“Good News of Great Joy”**

**What is joy?**

- John Piper: *“a good feeling in the soul, produced by the Spirit, as He causes us to see the beauty of Christ in the Word and in the world.”*
- Joy isn't the same as happiness.
- Joy is found deep within the soul.
- Joy is not circumstantial and remains even in trials.
- Joy produces deep peace within us.

**Nehemiah 8:10, “for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”** - We find strength from joy!

**5 Truths about Joy**

**1. Joy is here. (Luke 2:8-9)**

- Look at the context (8)
  - \*Where? - out in a field (obscure location)
  - \*Who? - shepherds (outcast of society)
  - \*What were they doing? - keeping watch by night (normal routine)
- Now look at v. 9, “suddenly”
  - \*an angel appeared
  - \*the glory of God shone around them
  - \*and they were filled with fear (frightened)
    - Appropriate response to seeing God's glory
    - They knew they should be frightened by God
    - This is different than reverent type fear; literally scared to death
    - This response to God is appropriate before this night.
- Joy is here.
  - \* It came to the least of these
  - \* It wasn't expected or conjured up
  - \* And watch this: in a moment, it interrupted their night.
    - This can change in a moment
    - Usually we view this in a negative sense (bad news, etc.)
  - \* But things can change for better in a moment as well
    - When we see Jesus
    - When God allows us to see His glory, we can have joy even in suffering.
- Joy is available.
  - \* Justin, “you don't know me” - I don't but this joy is available to you...
  - \* How do I know? (Well let's keep reading)

**2. Joy is sent. (Luke 2:10)**

- “Fear not”
  - \* You're frightened as you should, but what I am about to tell you will solve that.
- The reaction of fright can change by the news I am about to share.
- “I bring you”
  - \* The angels are bringing this message down from heaven.
  - \* We share the gospel by going out
    - The news we share was first sent down.
    - God the Father sent the angel to share good news that brings great joy.
  - \* Catch that...this gospel was first preached by an angel sent from the Father.
    - It is not achieved or mustered up.
    - It is delivered to us in grace.

- What is the angel bringing?
  - \* “Good news” (Gospel)
  - \* “of great joy”
  - \* “that will be for all the people”
    - This is how I know that you can have joy...this message sent down from the Father will be for all people.

### **3. Joy comes from having Christ as Savior and Lord. (Luke 2:11)**

- Here’s the good news of great joy for all people:
  - \* “for unto you” (Means to you, for you)
  - \* “is born this day”
  - \* “a savior who is Christ the Lord”
- Watch what the angel says...
  1. He’s already Lord
    - laying in that manger, He’s already Lord - we don’t make Him Lord
  2. Christ - Messiah
    - the one sent by God
    - promised by God
    - the One you’ve been waiting for
  3. Savior
    - the one who will put away our sin
    - bring ultimate salvation

#### **- And this is the source of joy!**

- When we accept Jesus our Lord, the One the Father sent, to be our Savior.
- This is the source of joy.
- It’s not circumstantial but eternal, and can’t be taken away.
  - \* There are many things that can be taken away...but not this joy!
  - \* Scripture says that I’m eternally kept by my Lord
    - Even when I’m not feeling it, He’s got me
    - No one can pluck me from His hand.
    - We in Christ are eternally secure.
- We stand right with God and will be with Him for eternity...that’s our source of joy!
- No matter what comes against me, He is for me.
- He delights in me... sings over me... rejoices in His children.
- He delights in providing and giving to us what we need.

#### **\*\*\*John 15:11, “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.”**

- It’s His joy that is in us.
- The joy comes from fellowship with God.

### **4. Good news becomes great joy when it is personally experienced. (Luke 2:12-19)**

- “Suddenly” again
  - \* The heavens couldn’t remain quiet anymore.
  - \* The angel was joined by a multitude.
  - \* The heavens broke into song.
- Purpose of Christ coming:
  1. Glory to God
  2. Peace on Earth
    - peace with God
    - peace with one another

- v. 15, They had to go see.
  - v.15, “which the Lord has made known to us”
  - They realized the craziness
    - They were just doing their thing, then the Lord revealed this to them.
- v.16, They heard the good news, but went with “haste”.
  - If this is true, then we need to see it right now.
  - They didn’t wait. They figured out how they could leave and did.
  - They didn’t put off what God had revealed to them.
  - \*\*\*Don’t put off till tomorrow what the Lord is calling you to today
    - trust Jesus today
    - forgive today
    - choose joy today
- v.17, They had to tell Joseph and Mary what the angel said.

**\*\*\*What are you waiting on?**

- This joy will be foreign to you until you acknowledge Jesus as Lord!

**5. Joy is shared (20)**

- They went back and shared with others.
- But they shared with God their joy He gave them by glorifying and praising Him.
- God never gets tired of us thanking Him for what He has done for us.
- Listen, it’s crazy that we have to figure out each week how we can invoke joy here.
  - It’s crazy that I feel the urge to have to tell Christians it’s ok to be joyful!
- Hey... Jesus, the Savior who is Christ the Lord, has been born!
  - God sent Him to bring great joy.
  - That’s news worth being joyful over!

**Application:**

**\*Why am I not joyful?**

**\*To the Christian: What is stealing or quenching your joy?**

- Sin?
- Bitternes?
- Forsaking His Word?

**\*To the unbeliever: Joy only comes from having Christ as Savior and Lord.**