

Church Part 12 - Enjoying Jesus (12-19-2021)

Introduction: Advent - a season of Joy (Jesus' - Birth, Resurrection, & Return)

- **Joy at Jesus' Birth** - Elizabeth & baby John / The Shepherds / The Magi

Luke 1:44 (ESV)

For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.

Luke 2:10 (ESV)

And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

Matthew 2:10 (ESV)

When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

- **Joy at Jesus Resurrection** - Jesus predicts it & his disciples experienced it!

John 16:21-22 (ESV)

(21) When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world.

(22) So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.

Note: Jesus said this to His disciples just before his death & resurrection. We see their joyful reaction after the fact . . .

Matthew 28:8 (ESV) - Women at the tomb . . .

So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

Luke 24:41 (ESV) - Disciples when he appears (shows scars & eats with them) . . .

. . . they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling

Luke 24:52-53 (ESV) - at Jesus final blessing & ascension . . .

(52) And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, (53) and were continually in the temple blessing God.

Note: The unique place of Jesus followers is one of Joy - death has already been defeated. Even as we await Jesus future return, we can do so in Joy!

Peter's sermon (Acts 2) - is an example of the message told over & over - Joy in the Resurrection!

Acts 2:25-28 (ESV)

(25) For David says concerning (Jesus), "I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; (26) therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. (27) For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. (28) You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

Note: The message of Christmas is the message of Jesus - Hope & Joy!

How can we live in this Joy? Peter is applying verses from Psalm 16 to the resurrected Jesus!

Psalm 16:11 (ESV)

You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

1) Joy on the Path of Life**Psalm 16:11 (ESV)**

You make known to me the path of life . . .

- Refuge

Psalm 16:1 (ESV)

Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

Note: Refuge (seek refuge/flee for protection) - when the path is hard, I can run to Him!

- Alternate Route

Psalm 16:4 (ESV)

The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names on my lips.

Note: He gives me an alternate route - its the narrow path that leads to life! / Sorrow will end!

- Counsel

Psalm 16:7 (ESV)

I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.

Note: I can know & rest in his counsel

2) Joy in His presence**Psalm 16:11 (ESV)**

. . . in your presence there is fullness of joy

- Intimacy is a reminder of his Goodness

Psalm 16:2 (ESV)

I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you."

Note: Enjoy his presence! Personal connection, conversation, and a reminder of where goodness is found!

- Cross is a reminder of his Providence

Psalm 16:5 (ESV)

The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.

Note: **Portion & Cup** - (redemption at the cross).

You hold my lot - (the circumstances of my life not the final word)

- His Presence is an anchor for my soul

Psalm 16:8 (ESV)

I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

Note: Jesus takes Peter by the hand and lifts him from the crashing waves!

3) Joy while facing the Future

Psalm 16:11 (ESV)

. . . at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

- Delight in His people

Psalm 16:3 (ESV)

As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight.

Note: We can face the future together - God's people are a reminder that we aren't alone!

- My future home is awesome

Psalm 16:6 (ESV)

The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.

Note: He goes to prepare a place for me!

- My future is secure

Psalm 16:9-10 (ESV)

(9) Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. (10) For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption.

Note: He will preserve me through it all - spirit, soul, & body!

Conclusion: The Church - the people who delight in & enjoy Jesus together, both now & forever!

Psalm 16:11 (ESV)

You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.