

The Privilege of Discipleship

Anthony Kim

Not just think about the great miracles that they performed, right? Where the demons flee, but rather that their names are written in heaven. Remember that. And so their joy was to be anchored not in ministry success, not in spiritual gifts, not any visible victories even, but in the unshakable grace of God. On the unshakable grace of God. And so we saw in the text in Luke chapter 10 verse 17 that they came back to the Lord Jesus and said Lord even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. We saw that and then again Jesus redirects that joy and grounds them not in what they had done not in what they have performed but rather what God has done right and that was found in Luke 10 20 saying your names are written in heaven.

So the Lord Jesus reminded them that their authority was also delegated. It wasn't their unique authority to cast out demons. No, that authority came from someone else. And namely that's of Christ. And their joy was not to be rooted in any of rather in God's salvation work. Right? And so before we move on in today's passage, I want to briefly clarify something from last week's sermon, I shared a story briefly about my experience street preaching. And I specifically the moment where a man approached me and asked, "Do you think God would ever forgive Satan?" Do you remember that if you were here? Well, I gave the correct biblical truth. But I referenced the wrong verse. And so I remembered it right after I spoke. I typically rehearse the message and when I quoted from Revelation 20, but I said the right thing, but it wasn't Revelation 3:20. It was actually Revelation 20:10. So I want to make that correction. It was Revelation 20:10. That is the passage that describes the devil being cast into the lake of fire forever. Okay. So I wanted to just note that before we continue on in this message.

And ultimately what we're going to see here is in this message that God's grace is revealed in ways such as truth. Revealed in truth. He shares to us truth that we would never be able to understand without the grace of God. We will not be able to be corrected without the grace of God. We will not be able to be guided or led without the grace of God. And ultimately without the grace of God, we would not be able to be sustained. Not in this life and certainly not in the life to come. He's the one that keeps us. Amen. He's the one that holds us fast.

So just as the disciples needed Jesus to redirect their joy, you know, I depend and I believe you all depend if you're a follower of Christ is we continue depend on the Lord redirecting us redirecting us from our own understanding to what? The Lord's understanding and namely to the word of God through scripture. And you know he does this faithfully, gently and graciously. That's how God is so good to us as a loving father. And we're going to see Jesus teaching in Luke 10:21-24 how he redirects the understanding of God through scripture. Because right after correcting his disciples joy, we see that in this text that we're going to go to that Jesus rejoices. So he goes from disciples wrong way of rejoicing and then he goes to you should rejoice in your

name written in heaven. And then now we're going to see in the text how the Lord Jesus Christ rejoices. And so we're going to see that it's not in again human accomplishment, not in human power, not rejoicing in the mission that the Lord Jesus Christ sent out the disciples to city to city, but rather we see Jesus rejoicing in the father's revelation in this passage tonight.

Now, what is that word revelation? It is pronounced in the Greek apocalypse. Apocalypse and that essentially means supernatural communication. Okay. So this not of our understanding not of our knowledge but of knowledge of God rather to humanity and that is namely us. And this term literally means to lay open what has been veiled or covered up. So what has been covered and veiled is now laid open to understanding. And this signifies that disclosure of divine truths towards us as mankind could not be discovered independently. We would not be able to figure out God's word independently just by reading it with our intellect. By no means it's by a supernatural communication. God must communicate it to us. And we'll see that in this passage. So, that's the heartbeat of today's passage. Jesus rejoices in the father's revelation. And by the way, that word revelation we're going to see it not in that word revelation, but we're going to see it in words like reveal or revealed when we go through the text. It has the same root meaning. It's derived from the same Greek word that I just shared earlier.

So, with that said, let's go ahead and stand and let's out of respect of God's word, I'll go ahead and read verses 21-24. God's word says this. In that hour, Jesus rejoiced in spirit and said, "I thank thee, oh Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and has revealed them unto babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in thy sight. All things are delivered to me of my Father, and no man knoweth who the Son is, but the Father, and who the Father is, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal him. Verse 23, and he turned unto his disciples, and said privately, Blessed are the eyes which see the things that ye see. For I tell you that many prophets and kings have desired to see those things which ye see and have not seen them, and to hear those things which you hear and have not heard them. May God bless the reading of his word. You may be seated.

We're going to see in verse 21 Jesus's joy primarily through God's revealing of his truth to those that are humble, to those that are humble. So we see in the phrase in the hour, we see that in verse 21. In the hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit. This is one of the few times by the way in scripture where we see Jesus openly, visibly and emotionally rejoicing. The Greek word means here rejoicing, overflowing with delight. He was overflowing just sheer delight with what he was going to express to the disciples right here. And then what do and so why do you think Jesus is rejoicing? Remember it was not because demons were cast out, not because miracles were performed, not because crowds were impressed, but rather Jesus rejoices because God has acted in his grace. Jesus rejoices because a father has revealed spiritual truth to humble hearts namely the disciples and namely here if you're a disciple of Christ you would also experience this and we're going to see here is Jesus rejoices in the Holy Spirit you see that his spirit and it directs his praise to the father and so what we see here is as many commentaries that I read is a trinitarian moment where you see father, son, and the holy spirit working perfect unity and perfect harmony. This is where we see in verse 21.

And then we see God reveals what man does not discover, what man cannot discover on his own. Jesus says, "Thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent and has revealed them unto

babes." Now here the wise and prudent it does not refer to intelligence. I think many of us may go to that but it's not intelligence but to self-reliance. It's to self-reliance. Those that are wise that are prudent that are named here are those who just depend upon themselves. And this can be the religious elite which he would speak about later. Pharisees and Sadducees namely who trusted in their own understanding. And so one commentaries put it this way. No man can obtain faith by his own acuteness or intellect, senses, emotions, feelings, but only by the secret illumination of the spirit. Only by the illumination of the spirit. And then we see here the reference to babes. Well, that's the disciples referring to the humble, referring to the teachable and the dependent on Christ. And so humility is not something we produce. It is something God creates within us. That's the Holy Spirit. And understanding is not something we achieve. It is something God grants. And revelation is not something we uncover. It is something God gives. And so God hides truth from the proud and reveal to the humble. Not because he delights in hiding. You might think it's not because of that, but because pride blinds and humility opens the eyes. That's why.

And so Jesus rejoices in the father's good pleasure here. He says, "Even so, father, so it seemed good in thy sight." Goes back to the father. This is how you want to reveal truth. Hidden from the wise and the prudent, but opening the eyes of the babes. So, Jesus rejoices because the father's gracious will is unfolding right before the eyes of Christ and sharing this with his disciples. It's very intimate. And Jesus rejoices because the father rejoices. There's that connection again, that perfect harmony and unity of the trinity.

So some of the things to think about here just in this passage itself so much to take in but we see spiritual insight that we have is because of God's mercy it's because of God's grace that anything that you see through God's word revealed to your understanding is because God allowed that to happen in you. Any joy that you experience is because it's produced by the spirit. The fruit of the spirit, right? And any understanding we possess is granted by the father. He opens our eyes. So let's go now to verse 22. Verse 22. All things are delivered to me of my Father. And no man knoweth who the Son is but the Father and who the Father is but the Son. And he to whom the Son will reveal him.

So I want to take that first phrase. All things are delivered to me of my Father. This is not human discovery. It is divine revelation. This is one of the most profound christological statements in the gospels. Christology just simply means relating to the person, nature, and role of Christ. And God gives all authority to the son. We see this with the words all things. And what is all those things? So I just went through scripture and I pulled out his works. John 5:19 says this with his works. Then answered Jesus and said unto them, "Very verily I say unto you, the son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the father do, for what thingsoever he doeth, these also doeth the son likewise." What about his words? John 12:49 says this, "For I have not spoken of myself, but the Father which sent me, he gave me commandment what I should say and what I should speak." And then his sheep. John 10:29. My father which gave them me is greater than all and no man is able to pluck them out of my father's hand.

The father has surrendered all things to him, the Lord Jesus Christ. And we see that in Matthew 28:18 that we see more of his power namely but we see these in seed form in John that I just expressed to you these three things. But then we see in Matthew 28:18 and Jesus came and spake

unto them saying all power all power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. So we see all power, his sheep, his words, his works, all given by the authority of God. These are the all things mentioned here. And let's go to the next expression or next phrase where he says, "No man knoweth who the son is but the father and who the father is but the son." This is the divine mystery. This is the mystery of the trinity. Distinct persons, shared essence, perfect mutual knowledge, perfect mutual knowledge. And then we see further that in the next phrase, and he to whom the son will reveal him.

So I put down here, we do not climb our way to God. Okay? God comes down to us. He reveals himself to us. The concept of God's condescension particularly Christ's incarnation which is lowering of himself from heaven Christ in heaven to earth we see this in Philippians 2:5-8 said this let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus who being in the form of God thought it not robbery to be equal with God but made himself of no reputation took upon him the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of men. And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. 2 Corinthians 8:9 puts it this way. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that he through his poverty might be rich. So we do not figure out the father the son reveals himself to us. We do not generate faith. The spirit grants it.

Where is the scripture verse for that? 1 Corinthians 2:10 to 12 says, "But God had revealed them unto us by his spirit. For the spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the spirit of God. Verse 12. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God, that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. And this destroys all religious pride, destroys all human speculation, destroys all self-made spirituality, and destroys the idea that all paths lead to God. Every glimpse you have of God is because God has revealed himself to you. Christianity is God revealing himself through his son.

Verses 23 to 24. And he turned unto his disciples, and said privately, "Blessed are the eyes which see the things that ye see. For I tell you that many prophets and kings have desired to see those things which ye see and have not seen them, and to hear those things which you hear and have not heard them." So let's start with the blessed are the eyes. Blessed are the eyes which see the things that you see. Why are they blessed? And in turn, why are we blessed? Not because they were wise or we are wise. Not because they were spiritual elites. Not because they sought harder, worked harder, performed harder. No, they were blessed because God again allowed them to see. God grants them the eyes to see. And he says, "Many prophets and kings have desired to see what you see." Here's a list of some of the prophets and kings. David, a prophet and a king. 2 Samuel 23:1-5. Not going to read the whole passage, but these five verses is David singing, praising the ideal king, not him, the ideal king, the Messiah who will rule in righteousness and fulfill God's everlasting covenant. Then Isaiah 53, Isaiah glimpses the suffering servant who bears the sins of others, suffers vicariously and is ultimately exalted to God. Then we see Jeremiah in chapter 31:31-34. Jeremiah wept for the new covenant because unlike the broken Sinai covenant, this new covenant involves God writing his law on the hearts of his people, not on stone tablets and which is a central theme is God's promise to forgive iniquity and remember sins no more.

And then Daniel 7:13-14, he sees visions of the son of man. And the last one, John the Baptist, the last prophet of the old covenant in Luke 7:20, long for the confirmation. Is this the son of God? He says, "Art thou he that should come?" And yes, as we know in John 1:29, it says, "Behold the lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world." And so these all these king prophets and David being a king, they longed after Christ. But God chose the timing not to be revealed in those in that in their time but in the disciples time. God chose the revelation. God chose the recipients. So God is the one that's the enabler here. And now let's see how he enables not only our sight but also our ears. We go from seeing to hearing. The Lord Jesus says to hear those things which you hear. See here hearing is not a human accomplishment. Again it is a divine gift. Jesus Christ himself said he that hath ears to hear let him hear. Who gives those ears? God does. Amen. God does.

God has given us by the way even more than what the disciples got to experience in Christ's time because we are allowed to see so much more because we get to have the Holy Spirit dwell in us. You see they only got to experience while Jesus was walking with him. But Jesus even said that he will give us even more right through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us. And Jesus prayed for this. John 14:16-17 he says, "And I will pray to the father and he shall give you another comforter that he may abide with you forever." Verse 17, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him, but ye know him, for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. That's a promise. And then Romans 8:9-11 says this, "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the spirit. If so be that the spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin. But the spirit is life because of righteousness. Verse 11. But if the spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his spirit that dwelleth in you."

So as we conclude tonight, Jesus rejoices in what God has revealed, not what man has achieved. True joy is not found in what you do for God, but in what God has revealed to you in Christ. God is the one that reveals. God is the one that opens eyes. God is the one that grants understanding. God is the one that anchors your joy and true joy. God is the one that keeps his people. God is the one that writes our names in heaven. And then God is the one that brings us to Christ. Our response then to this is we should rejoice because God has given us joy. We should respond by thanking God for opening our eyes. We should respond by the hearing because God has given us ears to hear. We should worship because God has drawn our hearts to right worship rightly. And we should also rest because God has secured our salvation. And by this we are blessed. We are blessed that we can see. We are blessed because we can hear. We are blessed because our souls have been saved. God has opened our eyes. God has unstopped our ears and God has revealed his son to you and to I.

Let's pray. Father, thank you for your word. Thank you for all the things that we have in Christ. We thank you, Lord, that it's already been settled in heaven. It's already been settled before the foundation of the world. Whom you were to choose, whom you were going to choose to see, whom you're going to choose to hear, and whom you were going to choose to save their souls. Thank you, Father, that we get to be recipients of your grace, oh God. It's just a thing that we can always praise you for. Help us to be constantly oriented to the things that you have given to us and not to the things of this world. Constantly help us to fix our eyes on Christ again and not on

the things of this world. Bless us to this understanding, deepen our understanding of who you are revealed in the scriptures. Thank you Lord for the disciples, the lessons that we get to learn from them. Help us to be true disciples of Christ so that we may glorify you. We ask all these things in Jesus name. Amen. Amen.