

Oh What Fun
Sacrificial Choice
December 7/8, 2019

Joel 2:23 Be glad...Rejoice in the Lord your God.

Isaiah 61:3 (NKJV) To give them the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.

Key Thought: Joy does not find you...you have to find it.

Matthew 6:25-34 (NKJV) “Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. **Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?** So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, **O you of little faith?** Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But **seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness**, and all these things **shall be added** to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

✓ Establish your **identity**.

Psalm 138:1-3 I give you thanks, O Lord, with all my heart; I will sing your praises before the gods. I bow before your holy Temple as I worship. I praise your name for your **unfailing love and faithfulness**; for your promises are backed by all the honor of your name. As soon as I pray, you answer me; you encourage me by giving me strength.... Though I am surrounded by troubles, you will protect me from the anger of my enemies. You reach out your hand, and the power of your right hand saves me. **The Lord will work out his plans for my life—for your faithful love, O Lord, endures forever.** Don't abandon me, for you made me.

✓ Increase your **Faith**.

Mark 4:35-41 As evening came, Jesus said to his disciples, “Let's cross to the other side of the lake.” So they took Jesus in the boat and started out...But soon a fierce storm came up. High waves were breaking into the boat, and it began to fill with water. Jesus was sleeping at the back of the boat with his head on a cushion. The disciples woke him up, shouting, “Teacher, don't you care that we're going to drown?” When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Silence! Be still!” Suddenly the wind stopped, and there was a great calm. Then he asked them, “Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?” The disciples were absolutely terrified.

“Who is this man?” they asked each other. “Even the wind and waves obey him!”

- ✓ Re-direct your energy.

Matthew 6:33 (NKJV) But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Key Thought: When order is restored, blessing is released.

Isaiah 61:3 ...the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.

Psalm 100:4-5 Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation.

Psalm 95:1-7 Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song... Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker; for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.

Praise...

1. Praise focuses on God, not me.

Psalm 50:23 “Those who sacrifice thank offerings honor me...”

2. Praise reminds me of the eternal, not the temporal.

2 Corinthians 4:8-9, 17-18 We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed...For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

3. Praise is outward, not inward.

Hebrews 13:15 Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name.

Luke 19: 37-40 ...the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!” “I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”

Walk Away: The only part of life that we can control is our reaction. Choose Joy.

Closing Declaration: Today, I will declare His mighty works! God is my refuge. He is my deliverer. His mercies are new everyday. His joy is my strength. His wings are my shelter. He heals my broken heart. He restores my soul.

What I have sown in tears, I'll reap in joy. What the devil meant for evil, God turns for good. Jesus, I run to You. I trade this heavy yoke for joy unspeakable. I trade every burden for peace like a river. I have the mind of Christ. I am complete, and lacking nothing. I am rooted and established in God's love. How wide, how long, how high, how deep is His love for me! I wear a crown of beauty, instead of ashes; the oil of gladness, instead of mourning; the garment of praise, instead of despair. I'm alive! I take off the grave clothes and come forth! Amen!!