

Luke 1:57-2:20 – 8 January 2023

“Gospel Joy”

Introduction

*Luke began his Gospel w/ Gabriel’s announcements to Zac & Mary of the coming of John & Jesus

*There is always a season of *preparation* b4 the times of *operation* and *culmination* of God’s will

*Today we have the arrival of John the Baptist & Jesus our Lord

*There’s no other way you can look at the births of John and Jesus without discussing the joy of it all!

*Oh the blessedness of knowing that you’re a part of God’s eternal plan & being used by Him!

Today, we’ll see 3 keys to experiencing the joy of the Gospel

1st key to experiencing joy is to have resilient faith: Never too late to partake in Gospel's joy (Vs 57-67)

Read Vs 57-61

1. 8th day was when blood coagulates the easiest naturally and it became their naming day
2. Obedience to God & His msg thru the angel is more important than family traditions
 - a. Are we willing to violate tradition if we need to live in obedience to God?

Read Vs 62-64

1. Zac missed out on the blessedness of this time and the birthday of John
 - a. Don't lose salvation but the joy of it all
2. Now Zac has a renewed chance to live in, not just salvation, but the joy of the Lord

Read Vs 65-66

1. Though Zac missed out on blessing, all people will still be impacted by God's working

Read Vs 67

1. Always chances to come back & praise God

2nd key to experiencing joy is to Live for His will: Interrupt your plan to follow God's plan (1:68-2:7)

Read Vs 68-71

1. Praising God for His salvation & redemption
2. We look for God to burst into our life & do great things

Read Vs 72-75

1. This is the 3rd promise to Abe
2. Read Gen 22:16-18 – Abe was willing to interrupt his own plan (having Isaac) to offer him

Read Vs 76-79

1. Jesus will call John the greatest of the prophets and the 'friend of the bridegroom'
2. John's mission is to prepare people & give knowledge, which is to prepare them
 - a. THEN the Son will rise bringing light & salvation

Read Vs 80

1. God's training of His people often happens in the desert (Moses, Joseph, David, Paul, etc)
2. Interruptions teach us dependance on God

Read Vs 1-5 - *Advent of Jesus the Christ*

1. Augustus is the 2nd Emperor of Imperial Rome
2. Cyrenius: one of these item mockers laughed at b/c it was widely known he was governor in 7AD, recently found that he was twice governor
3. Luke is careful to date & give great detail showing the reliability of the events
4. Read Mic 5:2 - Caesar thinking he's in command, but was only a puppet at the command of God to fulfill prophecy
 - a. Your past & environment aren't controlling your life, God is (Read Eph 2:10)
 - b. Don't be held there in bondage but choose joy

Read Vs 6-7

1. Jews were big on hospitality, but w/ taxation everything was full
 - a. Not exactly the plan Mary had in mind
2. Swaddling clothes like you bury the dead and a stone manger like the sepulcher tombs
 - a. From moment of birth, He's being poured out for us to feed on giving His life for us

3rd key to experiencing joy is to Choose it: Go public with the Gospel's power (Vs 8-20)

Read Vs 8

1. Shepherd was the lowest of employment
 - a. Read Isa 29:19 - Jesus always dealt w/ those disrespected by society
2. So not December; 12/25 was chosen in 4th century
 - a. If people want to celebrate birth of Christ, I'm all in

Read Vs 9-11

1. The Redeemer that is the Messiah & Master
2. So already the indication that the Jewish Messiah is intended to benefit the whole world

Read Vs 12

1. Sign validation
 - a. Zac & Mary's angel visits were validated by the sign of pregnancy
 - b. Shepherd's angel visits were validated by finding Jesus in this very unusual condition
2. The highest of men, Jesus, born in the lowest condition

Read Vs 13-14

1. Angels can't hold back but to praise God
2. Worthy is God for He's brought peace to men of good will – choose to serve and honor God

Read Vs 15-16

1. Imagine the commotion of bring all these sheep thru town looking for the right manger!
 - a. This was no silent night!

Read Vs 17-20

1. When God reaches down and touches & changes your life, you can't keep quiet
 - a. The 'my faith is private' crowd
 - b. (Monotone voice) "I was saved when I was 1.5 yrs old & God has really been great to me"
 - c. Read Jer 20:9
2. How do you react to the news that the Redeemer has come into the world?
 - a. Just wondering isn't enough
 - b. But embrace the God's truth and love and be filled with joy!

Conclusion

Just as the shepherd that night, we today are a part of spreading the joy of the glorious Gospel to the world!

Have you lost the joy of knowing Jesus & His plan?

1. **Have a resilient faith: It's never too late to come and follow Jesus in faith believing**
 - a. Maybe you've lacked faith as Zac, serve Him today...as long as you have breath
2. **Live for His will: Be willing to have your plans interrupted**
 - a. From Zac, to Mary; from Moses to Paul, those willing to see that God's plan is better than their own will find true joy
3. **Choose Joy: Go public with the Gospel**
 - a. If you truly believe that Jesus has brought you eternal life, you won't be able to contain it
 - b. If you truly believe you'll want to tell everyone!