

A. Sermon Slides

Slide 1:

There Will Be Joy
Psalm 126

Slide 2:

Psalm 126:1–6 (ESV)

- 1 When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.
- 2 Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then they said among the nations,
“The LORD has done great things for them.”
- 3 The LORD has done great things for us;
we are glad.

Slide 3:

- 4 Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like streams in the Negeb!
- 5 Those who sow in tears
shall reap with shouts of joy!
- 6 He who goes out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
bringing his sheaves with him.

Slide 4:

Adventus = Parousia = 2nd Coming of Christ

Slide 5:

"The celebration of Advent is possible only to those who are troubled in soul, who know themselves to be poor and imperfect, and who look forward to something greater to come."
Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Slide 6:

Grand Idea about Joy
Joy and sorrow are inextricably linked for every Christian

Slide 7:

Joy will come, not in spite of tears, but because of tears.

Slide 8:

3 Ideas to Consider:

- I. We all will weep, we won't all experience Joy
- II. People of faith weep more deeply, and experience Joy more fully
- III. Properly sown tears ushers in salvation

Slide 9:

All weep, but not all have Joy

Slide 10:

What is Joy?

Joy is emotional/spiritual buoyancy that comes from experiencing the unchanging, privileged standing of being made right before God.

Slide 11:

Our common emotional experience with the world is not Joy, it is sorrow.

1 Thessalonians 4:13 (ESV)

...that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.

Slide 12:

Quantitatively we all have different levels of Joy and Sorrow

But qualitatively the Christian experiences all Joy

Slide 13:

The opposite of Joy is not Sorrow.

The opposite of Joy is Hopelessness.

Slide 14:

People of Faith are open to more Sorrow and more Joy

Slide 15:

Sorrow is proof that there IS a God!

Slide 16:

Ezekiel 36:26 (ESV)

And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

Slide 17:

We feel more Sorrow for a world that isn't as it should be (and more Joy)

We feel more Sorrow for not being the kind of person we should be (and more Joy)

Slide 18:

Sowing our Seeds to Harvest

"Those who sow in tears
shall reap with shouts of joy!"

Slide 19:

Psalm 30:5 (ESV)

Weeping may tarry for the night,
but joy comes with the morning.

Slide 20:

The New Testament (and Psalm 126) teaches us that Sorrow doesn't just give way to Joy, but that Sorrow produces Joy.

Slide 21:

2 Corinthians 4:17 (ESV)

For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison

Slide 22:

Luke 2:10–11 (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. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

B. Group Discussion

1. Read Psalm 126 together as a group. Talk about the themes of Joy and Sorrow and the relationship they may have with one another.
2. Explain the important difference between sorrow giving way to joy, and sorrow actually producing joy? How does sorrow produce joy for the Christian?
3. Why should Christians experience more sorrow than those who have not been saved?
4. People use sorrow as proof that there is no God. How is it actually proof that there is a God?
5. Explain how the Joy of Christ produced sorrow, and how the sorrow of Christ produced Joy!
6. Prayer and Praise