

## Sermon Guide and Discussion Questions

Responding with Joy – Luke 1:39-56

### Sermon Outline

1. Introduction – illustration of a parade
2. John's Joy
3. Elizabeth's Joy
4. Mary's Joy
5. Conclusion – we can learn from these individuals and cultivate joy by the power of the Holy Spirit

### Scripture Passages Referenced

- Luke 1:38 - Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.
- Psalm 110:1 - The Lord says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool."
- Philippians 2:10-11 - at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
- Romans 8:1 – There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus
- Isaiah 57:17 - For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite."
- Exodus 34:6 - the LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.
- Genesis 12:3 - I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.
- 2 Corinthians 4:18 - as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.
- Psalm 96:1 - Oh sing to the Lord a new song.

### Discussion Questions

- Prior to today's sermon, how would you define joy? How has your understanding of joy changed in light of this passage and sermon?
- Why is joy so hard for people today? Is joy hard for you? Why or why not?
- What can you learn from the joy of John the Baptist and Elizabeth?
- How does Mary's song show that joy is not merely based on one's circumstances?
- Why is it important to rejoice in the big picture of what God is doing all around us?
- What can you learn from the fact that Mary understood what God was doing as the fulfillment of His promise to Abraham?
- Why can't we just change our attitude and have more joy?
- What are some practical ways that you can be intentional about cultivating joy?
- How can you and your family focus on the spiritual this Advent Season?
- In what ways can singing help your joy whether you are in the choir or can't carry a tune in a bucket?
- How did 'fresh eyes' help you see this passage in a different way?