



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FROM DECEMBER 10/11 SERMON

If you missed the sermon, check out biblechapel.org/sermons.

1. What was your main take-away from this message?
2. Read [Ecclesiastes 2:1-2](#) and [Hebrews 11:24-25](#). There are certainly things in this world that bring pleasure. However, what is the biggest problem with the world's brand of joy?
3. Read the Pascal quote below and [Luke 2:10-11](#). Describe what "true happiness" is and where it can be found. What is the "good news of great joy" that the angel proclaimed to the shepherds?

"What else does this craving, and this helplessness, proclaim but that there was once in man a true happiness, of which all that now remains is the empty print and trace? This he tries in vain to fill with everything around him, seeking in things that are not there the help he cannot find in those that are, though none can help, since this infinite abyss can be filled only with an infinite and immutable object; in other words, by God himself."

-Pascal, Penses

4. Read [Matthew 5:11-12](#), [1 Peter 4:13-14](#), [Acts 5:41](#), and [James 1:2-4](#). Two questions: How do trials develop joy? How have trials developed joy in your life?
5. See the two segments from the sermon below. In the first segment, discuss the joy that Jesus expressed in his life. In the "Joy of the Cross" segment, discuss the joy that was set before Jesus. What else would you add to these lists?

Jesus exemplified joy. In Luke 7.34, his enemies accused him of having too much fun. Jesus described himself as a bridegroom enjoying a wedding feast (Mk 2:18-20). I have a friend who

heard a sermon about the first miracle of Jesus—turning water into wine (John 2)—titled “Jesus Goes to Parties.” It helped her relate to the person and joy of Jesus. Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit (Lk 10:21). He talked about his joy in John 15:11 and promised to give his followers a lifetime filled with joy (John 16:24). Joy is seen in many of Jesus parables. For example, in Luke 15, Jesus told about the joyful shepherd, a joyful woman, and a joyful father—whose prodigal son came home.

What was the joy of the cross?

- The joy of doing the Father’s will (Obedience).
- The joy of providing the way to God (Salvation).
- The joy of paying sin’s penalty once and for all (Substitutionary Atonement).
- The joy of defeating death and Satan (Resurrection).
- The joy of celebrating his completed work (Exaltation).
- The joy of living in us through the Holy Spirit (Indwelling Presence).
- The joy of his return (Second Advent).
- The joy in presenting us blameless us to the Father (Justification: Declared not guilty and righteous).

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

- Jude 24-25