

The Great Commandment 8: Joy and Hope

Introduction

We yearn for something more. We chase after joy and it feels fleeting. We catch glimpses, but we want something eternal. When it comes to the great commandment, Jesus opens up a way for us to grasp hold of a joy that never waivers. Not only that, but He gives us reason to have hope in a future that is so big, it echoes back to effect our present.

Discussion Questions

1. What do you yearn for? If you could have one thing change about your life to make things better what would it be? Why?
2. Man has always been on a search for meaning. What does “meaning” look like to you? Do you feel like you have purpose? What is it?
3. We’re not just chasing meaning, but we want to feel the joy of having purpose. For that to happen, that purpose has to last. It has to be eternal. What does finding joy in Jesus look like? What is he offering? What is he not guaranteeing?
4. In our last series we saw that John referred to the miracles of Jesus as signs. If they are looked at with spiritual eyes, they point to something. Read John 2:1-11. What does the wine represent? Why is it noted that it was made in jars for ceremonial washing? Why did he make so much wine (120 gallons!)?
5. What’s your perspective on what happens after we die? Share some of your views as to what you imagine Heaven being like. What are some of the differences in the Heaven you imagine? How can what we believe about eternity effect how we live our daily lives?
6. When we read Revelation or 1 Thessalonians we tend to argue or speculate about a complex arrangement of things like the rapture, tribulation, the second coming, or the meaning of millennium. If those words seem foreign to you, that’s ok. We can agree on the three key elements of “the end” - Resurrection, Judgement, and a New Heaven and Earth. Describe your thoughts, feelings, and understanding of these three key elements.
7. What if our eternity is the perfected living out of the great commandment? An eternity of loving fellowship with God and each other. How does that make you feel about what comes after the grave? How should this idea inform our lives now?
8. What are some ways we can engage in the practice of loving and knowing God today?