

Silver Creek Fellowship NOTES

December 14

HOLY NIGHT

GREAT JOY FOR ALL PEOPLE

Luke 2:8-20 (NIV) ⁸ "And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.' ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.' ¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.' ¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.' ¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told."

Proverbs 16:20 (NKJV) "He who heeds the word wisely will find good, And whoever trusts in the Lord, happy is he."

Psalms 144:15b (NKJV) "Happy are the people whose God is the Lord!"

"The greatest need of the hour is a revived and joyful Church. Unhappy Christians are, to say then least, a poor recommendation for the Christian Faith; and there can be little doubt but that the exuberant joy of the early Christians was one of the most potent factors in the spread of Christianity." — **Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones**

"Christians ought to be celebrating constantly. We ought to be preoccupied with parties, banquets, feasts, and merriment. We ought to give ourselves over to celebrations of joy because we have been liberated from the fear of life and the fear of death. We ought to attract people to the church quite literally by the sheer pleasure there is in being a Christian." — **Robert Hotchkins**

1. Joy is the fruit of abiding

Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV) ²² "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."

Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV) ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

John 15:5 (NIV) "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain [abide] in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit..."

John 15:11, NIV "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete."

This is the secret: We don't produce joy; we receive it.

1 Peter 1:8 (NIV) "Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy,"

2. Abiding joy is our strength in suffering

Romans 5:2-4 (ESV) ² "Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,"

a. We can rejoice because God is WITH us (His Presence).

Isaiah 43:2 (ESV) "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you."

Deuteronomy 31:8 (NIV) "The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."

b. We can rejoice because God is WORKING in us (His Purpose).

John 15:2 (ESV) "Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit."

Romans 8:28 (ESV) "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."

c. We can rejoice because God will HELP us (His Power).

John 16:24 (NIV) "Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete."

3. Choosing joy: The practice of rejoicing

Philippians 4:4 (NIV) "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!"

"Have you realized that most of your unhappiness in life is due to the fact that you are listening to yourself instead of talking to yourself?" — **Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones**

Psalms 13 (NIV) For the director of music. A psalm of David. ¹ "How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? ² How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me? ³ Look on me and answer, Lord my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death, ⁴ and my enemy will say, 'I have overcome him,' and my foes will rejoice when I fall. ⁵ But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. ⁶ I will sing the Lord's praise, for he has been good to me."

Hebrews 12:1-3 (NIV) ¹² "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."

Psalms 42:5 (NIV) "Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God."

Psalms 43:5 (NIV) "Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God."

Missed a sermon? No problem - all of our sermons are available on the SCF app and website: scf.tv/sermons