

DATE: AUGUST 13, 2023

Heaven's Joy is God's Surprising Gift Through Trust in His Son Luke 10:17-24

Joy floods Jesus's followers as they exercise his Kingly authority.

Luke 10:17 The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!" 18 And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you.

Joy erupts from the assurance of Eternal Life in God's presence.

Luke 10:20 Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

Rev. 21:10 ... [He]showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God....23 And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb....27 ... nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

As described by Luke, the Holy Spirit...

- ...prepared Jesus's earthly body. (v.1:35)
- ...testified to Jesus's unique identity. (vv. 2:26-27)
- ...visibly demonstrated the Father's delight in Jesus. (v. 3:22)
- ...directed & empowered Jesus to conquer the Devil in the wilderness. (v. 4:1)
- ...supplied Jesus with powerful validation in his ministry. (v. 4:14)
- ...connected Jesus to the prophecies of the past. (v. 4:18)

Joy fuels Jesus's gratitude toward the Father's self-disclosure to the "unqualified."

Luke 10:21 In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. **22** All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

1 Cor. 1:26 For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise.... 30 And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, 31 so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

John 5:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

Joy explodes with the realization of God's Kingly arrival in Jesus.

Luke 10:23 Then turning to the disciples he said privately, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see! **24** For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it."

1 Peter 1:12 It was revealed to [the prophets] that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

Reflection/Discussion

- 1. Take stock of all of the kingly gifts God has bestowed on you in 1 Peter 1:3-12. How does this affectionate generosity make you feel toward the Father and his royal Son?
- 2. Think of the blessings you have experienced through Christ in your life. How do these compare with your certain future described in Revelation 21:10-27? What action can you take to keep this joy in front of you this week?

<u>SONGS</u>

"WE PRAISE YOU"

"STAND IN YOUR LOVE"

"KING OF KINGS"

"LIVING HOPE"

"JOY TO THE WORLD"

Crossing Music Pastor: Dan Gillette (dan@vbc.online)

BUDGET

GIVING LAST WEEK: \$ 39,789.38 WEEKLY NEED: \$ 36,985.00

Y-T-D GIVING: \$ 1,067,606.23 Y-T-D GENERAL NEED: \$ 1,183.520.00

ALTAMONT CAMPUS EXPANSION FUND: (Last Entry 08/03) \$ 87,991.66

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