

Real Joy! Really!

Text: Luke 2:1-20

Main Point: Real Joy can really be yours if you will simply learn life lessons from the Christmas story!

Lesson # 1 - _____: Learn that real joy is rooted in trusting in a providential God who works in history to accomplish His will for His glory & ultimately for our good. (v. 1-5, Rom 8:28, Prov 21:1)

Lesson # 2 - _____: Learn that real joy is rooted in following in the footsteps of Jesus who though He was rich became poor going to the cross. (v. 6-7, 2 Cor 8:9)

Lesson # 3 - _____: Learn that real joy is rooted in living fearless in this life because Jesus has tasted death for us! (v. 10, Heb 2:14, Is 41:10, 2 Tim 1:7, Ps 27)

Lesson # 4 - _____: Learn that real joy is rooted in possessing forgiveness through Jesus as my savior. (8-14, Rom 10:9-10, Eph 2:8-9, 1 Tim 1:15)

Lesson # 5 - _____: Learn that real joy is rooted in resting with peace because God is pleased with us through faith in Christ! (v. 14, Heb 11:6)

Lesson # 6 - _____: Learn that real joy is rooted in making haste to seek out the Lord & come to a greater knowledge of Him! (v. 15-16, Prov 2:1-5)

Lesson # 7 - _____: Learn that real joy is rooted in boldly announcing to the good news of Jesus to others. (v. 17-18, 1 Thess 1:8-9)

Lesson # 8 - _____: Learn that real joy is rooted in worshiping & praising God who is all glorious! (19-20, John 4:23-24)

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Application Questions:

1. Do you think it is possible to experience real joy in this life? Look over the 8 life lessons that were gleaned through the Christmas story. Identify the major lessons that you need to work on. What specific plans can you make to ensure that these lessons will be learned?
2. What area do you struggle with trusting God?
3. Jesus left you an example that you should follow in His footsteps. How are you sacrificially following Jesus?
4. What area in your life gives you the most anxiety? How should the message of the angel – “Fear Not” change the way you respond to difficulty in your life? If the fear of death has been removed (Hebrews 2:14), why should we fear the lesser things in life?
5. When the angel says that the “good news of great joy shall be for all people” does this mean that every person will experience that great joy? What must happen for a person to experience this great joy? (See Rom 10:9-10, Eph 2:8-9)
6. What are you specifically doing to “make haste” to seek out the Lord more intensely & to grow in a greater knowledge of Him?
7. Who have you recently told about Jesus? Isn’t telling others about Jesus the culmination of joy in our hearts? If we have no desire to tell others about Jesus as our Savior, what does that say about the reality of experience that we have had with Jesus?
8. What do you do on a regular basis to worship and praise God? Is it possible that your joy (or lack of joy) is directly linked to this activity in your life?

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