

Sermon Outline and Questions

Pastor Dave – Sunday 17th December 2023

Peace – Hope – Joy

Focusing on joy.

We heard about the joy of a man who had his sins forgiven.

The Joy of Salvation.

Joy and rejoicing – those 2 words go together in scripture.

- One writer described joy not just as a feeling although we do experience an emotion or feeling of joy - but that it is an action.

We see this in the words joy or rejoicing – seeing that over 400 times in the bible.

- Making joy and rejoicing one of the major themes throughout scripture.

Psalms using these words 80 times.

Gospels using it 40 times.

Important thing to talk about from the word of God.

C.S. Lewis said...

Joy is an unsatisfied desire which is itself more desirable than any other satisfaction.

It must be sharply distinguished both from happiness and from pleasure.

- He is talking about this due to the joy he experiences in coming to faith in Jesus Christ.

God is the true source of joy.

- Today hearing about a man who was physically disfigured and healed by Jesus, but that the physical healing was not the most important element of this story.

Psalm 32 prior to reading Mark 2.

- Psalm writer talking about the joy of salvation.
- And the joy that comes from the forgiveness of sins.

Psalm 32

The Joy of Forgiveness

Of David. A *Maskil*.

¹ How joyful is the one
whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered!

² How joyful is a person whom
the LORD does not charge with iniquity
and in whose spirit is no deceit!

- Rejoicing in God's forgiveness.

Mark 2 – also seen in Matthew, Luke and Mark.

The Son of Man Forgives and Heals

2 When he entered Capernaum again after some days,

- Matthew tells us that at this point in Jesus' ministry he was no longer living in Nazareth his hometown – that he had moved to Capernaum and was living there.
- Mark telling us that Jesus was at home.
- So, when he wasn't travelling Jesus was actually living at this home.

it was reported that he was at home. ² So many people gathered together that there was no more room, not even in the doorway, and he was speaking the word to them.

- Jesus taking the time – sitting down with people who came teaching them the word of God.
- Likely from other scripture verses that we know of he was taking them through Old Testament scripture and showing them who he was and why he came.

³ They came to him bringing a paralytic, carried by four of them.

- They – friends of the man.

Problem – in them endeavouring to get him to Jesus they discover can't get him to Jesus!

⁴ Since they were not able to bring him to^[a] Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and after digging through it, they lowered the mat on which the paralytic was lying.

- Houses not like ours at all – they had an outside stairwell that got up to the flat roof and a terrace – mud they had to dig through the roof.

⁵ Seeing their faith, Jesus told the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

- A beautiful account that fact that Jesus addressed the biggest problem the man had – his fundamental problem – that he was a sinner before a Holy God.
- Did he need to be healed – yes – bound to the mat he was on – not able to do anything for himself.

Faith and salvation go hand in hand – as we reflect back upon the story, we heard about the lady with the blood disorder.

- Jesus here sees the faith of these men – we work on the assumption that it is the faith of the men carrying the man and the paralysed man himself.

“Son your sins are forgiven – the beginnings of joy in this man’s life – this comes first and foremost through a personal relationship with God – God is the source of all joy.

Point # 1 – Joy results from life with God.

- We see that people glorify God because of these events.

Park here for a minute – based on Psalm 32 and other passages of scripture – Joy comes through salvation.

1 Samuel 2:1 – Hannah prayed – *My heart rejoices in the Lord, my horn is lifted up by the lord, my mouth boasts over my enemies because I Rejoice in your salvation.*

Habakkuk 3:18 – *yet I will celebrate in the Lord, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation.*

Luke 1:46-47 – *My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my saviour.*

- Mary realised she needed a saviour just like everybody else.

Acts 13:52 – says... *The disciples were filled with joy in the holy spirit* – when we trust Christ as saviour, when we have the holy spirit of God indwelling us, we also have joy that comes with that salvation.

Romans 15:13 – says this... - *Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you believe so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the holy spirit.*

- As we believe we are filled with joy – joy comes from God – comes through salvation.

Joy was declared – talked about the at the coming of and at Jesus birth.

Luke 2:8-11 Christian Standard Bible

The Shepherds and the Angels

⁸ In the same region, shepherds were staying out in the fields and keeping watch at night over their flock. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.^[a] ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Don’t be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people:^[b] ¹¹ Today in the city of David a Savior was born for you, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

- We see this again when the wisemen come and visit the child in the home – as they talk to Herod they describe the star as his star – the messiah’s star.

Verse 9 It led them until it came among the place where the child was. 10. And when they saw the star they were overwhelmed with joy.

- Why – because they came to the place where the Messiah was.

11. Entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother and falling down to their knees they worshipped him.

- overwhelmed with joy when they found the Lord Jesus Christ.

Joy is not found in seeking it in its own end – we need to understand this.

Reflecting on that there is joy in heaven when a lost person gets saved.

Parable of the lost sheep – “I tell you there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over 99 righteous people who need no repentance.”

- Not only was there joy when this man was healed and came into a personal relationship with Jesus – but there was joy in heaven when this man was saved.

Joy comes from life with God.

Mark 2 continued... - It is important that we understand the gravity of what is said to this man – everyone needs to know that only Jesus can save us from our sins

- Only Jesus can save us – he was not just a mere man he is God the son.

⁶ But some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts: ⁷ “Why does he speak like this? He’s blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

- They knew – only God can forgive sins.
- Jesus just said – “Your sins are forgiven” – in that moment proclaiming to be God.

⁸ Right away Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were thinking like this within themselves and said to them, “Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? ⁹ Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat, and walk’?”

- Jesus making a really good point here.
- As far as a human being was concerned how would they know that his sins were forgiven? – They couldn’t tell that or be able to evaluate that.
- Jesus saying... Which is more difficult – as you are wrestling with this – you have no way of validating whether or not I Have forgiven his sins – “wouldn’t be harder if I said just get and walk?”

¹⁰ But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he told the paralytic— ¹¹ “I tell you: get up, take your mat, and go home.”

Beautiful picture here – Jesus the son of God had the authority to forgive sins – because he is God.

- He said – you want to know for sure that I can forgive sins – get up – take your mat and go home.

¹² Immediately he got up, took the mat, and went out in front of everyone.

- Even though the physical healing was great, it paled into insignificance to what Jesus had do for him just prior to that – Jesus saved him from his sins.
- Sin that would continue to corrupt his life and bring about eternity without God.
- Jesus forgave him of his sin and gave him new life.

As a result, they were all astounded and gave glory to God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

This guy being very similar to another guy in the New Testament.

- Beggar who is lame outside of the temple – Peter, James and John going to the temple – asking for alms – Peter says, “silver and gold have I none” But this is not the important thing – Peter says he has something more important than that for this lame beggar – and that is salvation through Jesus Christ and then he heals him.
- The guy goes of leaping and praising God – rejoicing because he came to know Christ as saviour.

Point # 2 - Joy triumphs in the midst of trials.

We do need to understand this because the Bible talks about it, and we experience it in length that there are times when we experience deep sorrow.

We are not saying that we don't experience deep sorrows and talk about joy. There are times when we face loss, and we experience situations, and it just breaks our heart, and we are experiencing deep sorrow.

There are times in the psalms when the Psalm writer talks about deep sorrow, Lamentations and talks about it, there are other instances in scripture where there is deep sorrow that is experienced by the people of God, we understand that. We are not minimizing that we're not taking away from that there are times when that is the case.

But the Bible makes it clear that we can still experience joy in the midst of trials because joy is not based on our circumstances it is based on God.

Acts 16:25-34 Christian Standard Bible

A Midnight Deliverance

²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.

- Prior to this they had caused a riot in the city and preaching and converting people with the gospel – there was a mob after them.

This going on prior to the praying and singing.

Acts 16:20-24

²⁰ Bringing them before the chief magistrates, they said, “These men are seriously disturbing our city. They are Jews ²¹ and are promoting customs that are not legal for us as Romans to adopt or practice.” ²² The crowd joined in the attack against them, and the chief magistrates stripped off their clothes and ordered them to be beaten with rods. ²³ After they had severely flogged them, they threw them in jail, ordering the jailer to guard them carefully. ²⁴ Receiving such an order, he put them into the inner prison and secured their feet in the stocks.

- This being the situation Paul and Sila’s were in when they pray and sing praises to God.
- Brutally beaten and thrown in jail for what? – Sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with people who desperately need to hear about Jesus.

Many of us if we were in this situation if we are honest would admit to probably not singing praise God and praying to God – probably complaining an awful lot if we were praying.

- Prisoners listening to them.
- Paul and Sila’s in the midst of there trials focusing on the one who could bring them joy.
- The one who can give them peace.
- Who may or may not deliver them – but who is always with them and will never leave them or forsake them.

Acts 16:26-34 Christian Standard Bible

²⁶ Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the jail were shaken, and immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone’s chains came loose. ²⁷ When the jailer woke up and saw the doors of the prison standing open, he drew his sword and was going to kill himself, since he thought the prisoners had escaped.

²⁸ But Paul called out in a loud voice, “Don’t harm yourself, because we’re all here!”

²⁹ The jailer called for lights, rushed in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ He escorted them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

- Their testimony in the midst of this trial had a huge impact the life of the jailer.
- Bringing to the place of asking how he can be saved.

The message is the same to those who today don’t know Christ as saviour.

³¹ They said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.” ³² And they spoke the word of the Lord to him along with everyone in his house. ³³ He took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds. Right away he and all his family were baptized. ³⁴ He brought them into his house, set a meal before them, and rejoiced because he had come to believe in God with his entire household.

- Salvation came to this man and his family – they rejoiced because they were saved.

James 1:2-4 Christian Standard Bible

Trials and Maturity

² Consider it a great joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you experience various trials, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ⁴ And let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.

- We all experience trials of various kinds that affect us and those nearest and dearest to us.

Question - How can James say – ² Consider it a great joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you experience various trials?

- Because he knows the result of that...

³because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ⁴ And let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.

- We can indeed have joy in the midst of our trials as we know that we are made mature – refined – made complete in them – when we know what God is accomplishing through those trials.

Point # 3 – Joy is a fruit produced through the holy spirit.

We don't look for joy in and of itself – it is produced by God in and through our lives.

- The work of the holy spirit.
- Part of that is that we can have joy produced in our lives as we get to know God's word better.

Psalms 119, 16, 111, 162

Psalm 119:16 Christian Standard Bible

¹⁶ I will delight in your statutes;
I will not forget your word.

- We need to have this in our lives – that we delight in all of his word.
- Then we won't forget it.

Psalm 119:111 Christian Standard Bible

¹¹¹ I have your decrees as a heritage forever;
indeed, they are the joy of my heart.

Question – Christian is God's word the joy of your heart?

Psalm 119:162 Christian Standard Bible

¹⁶² | rejoice over your promise

like one who finds vast treasure.

Question – We have so many promises in God’s word do we rejoice over them?

- Do we pursue them as treasure? – especially when we spend so much time after treasures that really don’t matter!

Worship brings about joy – mentioning the writer that said joy is a feeling, but that it is also an action.

- As we sing praises to God it actually produces joy.
- How could it not when we reflect upon what God has done for us.

How could we not have joy when we know that Jesus stepped down out of heaven and came as a little baby - grew up and lived a sinless life – died on the cross in our place – to save us from our sinfulness.

- As we look at our sinfulness before God all the things that we think, the things that we say, the attitudes we have – which are just an affront to God.

Jesus took all the sin upon himself – he took the punishment that we deserved.

So that when put our faith and trust in him we are forgiven of our sins forever, past, present, future.

- We get to spend eternity with God almighty for all eternity.

How can we not rejoice in that?

[Luke 24:52](#) – talks about this.

[James 5:13](#) – talks about this.

We have so much to be thankful and rejoice in.

Challenge.

Christian – one of the things that scripture makes abundantly clear is that if we have unconfessed sin in our lives, it impacts us deeply – it impacts our walk and our fellowship with the lord, but sometimes it actually has physical ramifications and it actually robs us of the joy that we should be having.

David says this in Psalm 51...

Psalm 51 Christian Standard Bible

Psalm 51

A Prayer for Restoration

For the choir director. A psalm of David, when the prophet Nathan came to him after he had gone to Bathsheba.

⁶ Surely you desire integrity in the inner self,
and you teach me wisdom deep within.

⁷ Purify me with hyssop, and I will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.

What David is saying is this...

When I was living in sin, and I wasn't confessing that sin, and I was living in rebellion against you God – living in and not confessing that sin – it was like you were crushing my bones.

- Elsewhere in the Psalms he talks about it was like his bones were drying out.
- Lacking joy – because God was disciplining him.

He was saying let me hear joy and gladness – let the bones you have crushed rejoice – turn your face away from my sin – and blot out my guilt.

- Here he is confessing his sin.
- Create in me a new heart – renew a right spirit within me – do not banish me from your presence – restore the joy of your salvation.

Turn your face away^[a] from my sins
and blot out all my guilt.

¹⁰ God, create a clean heart for me
and renew a steadfast^[b] spirit within me.

¹¹ Do not banish me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.

¹² Restore the joy of your salvation to me,

If you do not have joy anymore, it may be because you need to confess your sin before God and ask him to...

¹² Restore the joy of your salvation to me,