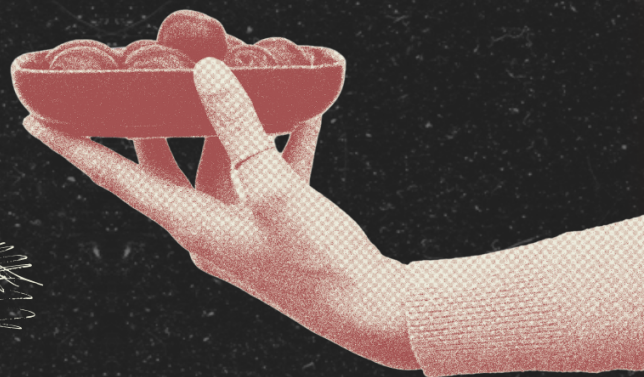


Fruit of the Spirit



LOVE
JOY
PEACE
PATIENCE
KINDNESS
GOODNESS
FAITHFULNESS
GENTLENESS
SELF-CONTROL



“JOY”

LUKE 10:1-22; JOHN 15:9-11

Jesus was the happiest man who ever lived. In Luke 10, when the 72 return from their mission, Jesus redirects their joy from power over demons to the much greater reality that their names are written in heaven. Then, in a rare glimpse behind the veil, Luke shows us Jesus Himself rejoicing in the Holy Spirit. Luke tells us the Lord's heart leaps because the Father's will is being accomplished through the Son. This is the source of Christ's undiminished joy: not circumstance, not success, but the eternal purposes of God being fulfilled. Because Jesus never sinned, his joy never flickered. And John 15 tells us this same joy is meant to be in us. The joy of Christ in us is not manufactured, nor is it situation or mood-dependent. It is infused through abiding in the Word of Christ and resting in His love. Keeping his commandments is not a burden that earns joy; it is the natural overflow of resting in the love that already holds us. Biblical joy seeks a Person, not a feeling.

// GETTING THE MESSAGE

:: Pastor Jamie made the claim that "grumpiness is incompatible with Christian faith and practice."

What is the theological basis for that claim? Why do we get grumpy?



// GETTING THE MESSAGE

:: Luke 10:21 says Jesus "**rejoiced in the Holy Spirit**". What triggered His joy? What does the object of His joy reveal about what He valued?

:: The lecture drew a line from Luke 10:21 to Zephaniah 3:17. What is the theological connection? How does that OT text illuminate what Jesus is doing in Luke 10?

:: In Luke 10:20, Jesus redirects the disciples' joy from power over demons to the fact that their names are written in heaven. Why is that the more fundamental ground for joy? What is the difference between joy in what God does *through* you versus joy in what God has done *for* you?

:: John 15:11 says Jesus speaks "**these things**" so that *His* joy might be in his disciples and their joy might be full. What are "these things"? Trace the logic of John 15:9-11. What's the connection?

:: Keeping Christ's commandments is "*really just resting in his love.*" How does verse 10 support that reading? Is obedience presented as the *source* of joy or the *fruit* of it?



// GETTING TO CHRIST

:: The 72 are excited that *demons were subject to them*. What subtle sin is Jesus correcting in verse 20? How does joy rooted in personal spiritual power differ from joy rooted in election and grace?

:: In Luke 9 the disciples argue about which of them is greatest—with Jesus standing right there. What sin does that expose, and how does the joy of Christ (seeking not His own glory but the Father's) directly address it?

// GETTING TO YOU

:: The teaching notes that when we sin, we "turn the dimmer switch down" on our experience of joy. What does that suggest about the common experience of spiritual dryness? Is joylessness always a symptom of sin, or are there other causes?

:: Jesus tells His disciples not to rejoice in ministry success, but that their names are written in heaven (Luke 10:20). What successes, achievements, or blessings are you most tempted to use as the foundation of your joy?



// GETTING TO YOU

:: Jesus says His desire is that His own joy would be in His people and that their joy would be full (John 15:11). What practical habits help you remain in Christ's Word so that His joy increasingly shapes your life?

// GETTING TO OTHERS

:: What does Luke 10 teach about how believers should respond when the gospel is rejected?

:: How does remembering that our names are written in heaven strengthen us for evangelism and missions?

:: What is the connection between joy and urgency in evangelism and missions? Why would a joyless Christian be a poor evangelist?

