



The Joy of Jesus
Week #3 of Advent

The Fruit of the Spirit

- ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is
- love, **JOY**, peace,
- patience, kindness, goodness,
- faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control;
- against such things there is no law. (Galatians 5:22-23)

Uninhibited Joy!



Uninhibited Joy!



Deeper, Longer-Lasting Joy

Luke chapter 2



The Practical and the Procedural (Luke 2:1-8)



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In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town.

⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The Practical and the Procedural (Luke 2:1-8)



The Practical and the Procedural (Luke 2:1-8)

- ⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

The Supernatural and the Spiritual (Luke 2:9-12)



The Supernatural and the Spiritual (Luke 2:9-12)

⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear.

¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of **great joy** that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

Comparing Athens/Rome to Jerusalem/Bethlehem

- Athens/Rome: “Greco-Roman” centers of thought and power that provide the ideals of civic society in the West. (Includes Western thought and socio-political structures; rational and practical)
- Jerusalem/Bethlehem: “Judeo-Christian” centers of morality and service that provide spiritual perspective throughout the world. (Includes the sovereignty of God and His relationship with human beings; revelation and motivation)

Biblical Times:

A Comparison of Caesar Augustus and Jesus

Caesar Augustus	Jesus Christ
“Good News” of an emperor’s birth	“Good News” of a Savior’s birth
Head of the Roman Empire	Head of God’s Kingdom and the Church
Establishes Justice and Peace (“Pax Romanus”)	Initiates Era of Justice and Peace
Called “Son of God”	Called “Son of God” and “Son of Man”
Self-Proclaimed “Savior” and “Lord” of the Earth	God-Proclaimed “Savior” and “Lord” of God’s Kingdom

Takeaway:

Be in the world but not of the world

- ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.
(Romans 12:2)

Be in the world but not of the world



British sprinter Eric
Liddell
1924 Paris Olympics
--Chariots of Fire

Close-reading today's key passage: Luke 2:10-11

- ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.
- "Good News" (the gospel of Jesus Christ)
- "Great Joy" (overflowing and long-lasting happiness)
- "For all the people" (salvation is available to everyone)
- "A Savior" (someone to save us from our desperate situation of sin)
- "Christ" (the "Anointed One," i.e. the Messiah)

Jesus's Joy is Found in Us: He saves the lost

- ⁴ "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, **rejoicing**. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, '**Rejoice** with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more **joy** in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

- --Luke 15:4-7 (ESV)

Jesus's Joy is Found in Us: He delights in sharing His joy

- ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my **joy** may be in you, and that your **joy** may be full. (John 15:10-11)

Jesus's Joy is Found in Us: He endured the cross for us

- "for the **joy** that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."

--Hebrews 12:2b

(An evangelist at a Christian music festival in Illinois)

Our joy is found in Jesus: Jesus is our Guide

¹¹ You make known to me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of **joy**;
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

--Psalm 16:11 (ESV)

Our joy is found in Jesus: Jesus is a joy that is inexpressible

- ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and **rejoice** with **joy** that is inexpressible and filled with glory (1 Peter 1:8)

Our joy is found in Jesus: Joyfulness is at the heart of worship

Make a **joyful** noise to the LORD, all the earth!

² Serve the LORD with gladness!

Come into his presence with singing! (Psalm 100:1-2)

¹⁷ For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
(Romans 14:17)

Conclusion: Rejoice in the Lord!

- I will greatly **rejoice** in the LORD;
my soul shall exult in my God,
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness
--Isaiah 61:10

Deeper, Longer-Lasting Joy



Let Us Pray

