

“Joy”

A Tale of Two Advents #3

1 Peter 1:3-9

December 11, 2016

Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Introduction

Where do you get your joy?

- Joy is related to happiness, but they're not the same
- God wants his people to have joy
- C.S. Lewis — “Joy is the serious business of heaven.”

Big Idea: Joy is not merely the absence of sorrow, but a deep, abiding pleasure in Christ—even in the middle of many trials.

I. Looking Back | vs. 3

1. [1] The joyful heart is a worshipful heart
2. [2] The joyful heart is a gospel-grounded heart

II. Looking Forward | vs. 4

1. [3] The joyful heart is a future-focused heart

III. The Present Paradox | vs. 6-7

1. [4] The joyful heart is not a flippant heart / the joyful heart still feels grief
 - a. Tifah Phillips from Page CXVI on joy
 - b. 2 Corinthians 6:10 — “sorrowful, yet always rejoicing”
2. [5] The joyful heart knows that in Christ, our suffering has purpose
 - a. To be made like Christ “The man of sorrows”
 - b. To know closeness with Christ
 - c. To be able to comfort others
 - d. Charles Spurgeon — Do not believe that any man will become a physician unless he walks the hospitals; and I am sure that no one will become a divine, or become a comforter, unless he lies in the hospital as well as walks through it, and has to suffer himself...He may make his sons of thunder anywhere; but his sons of consolation he must make in the fire, and there alone. Who shall speak to those whose hearts are broken, who shall bind up their wounds, but those whose hearts have been broken also, and whose wounds have long run with the sore of grief?

IV. The Focus of Joy | vs. 8-9

1. **[6]** The joyful heart loves Jesus

The Problem: Seeking [Ultimate] Joy in Other Places Besides Christ

Conclusion

1. PRAYER for JOY

Group Prayer

O Christ, all thy ways of mercy tend to and end in my delight. Thou did weep, sorrow, suffer that I might rejoice. For my joy thou hast sent the Comforter, multiplied thy promises, shown me my future happiness, given me a living fountain. Thou art preparing joy for me and me for joy. I pray for joy, wait for joy, long for joy; give me more than I can hold, desire, or think of.

Benediction

Nehemiah 8:10 — Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.