

Sermon Series: Living Out Your Mission

Week 2 – “Rejoicing in the Gospel”

A Great Joy, A Greater Joy, The Greatest Joy

Monday: Read the Sermon text again. After hearing the sermon this week and reading the Bible passage, is there a section, a verse, or even a word or two that are standing out? How is God speaking to you? Which point of the sermon was most impactful to you? Why? Spend some time in prayer asking God to work in your heart, to build your faith, to bring you to repentance, to continue to speak to you this week.

Tuesday:

A Great Joy – participating in gospel ministry

Describe and or discuss what it must have been like - the experience of the 72 - preaching / teaching the gospel with a great response; healing the sick; casting out demons, etc...

They had never done such things before. How were they able to do that?

Transitioning to our day in time (2021), can you speak to your own personal experience of seeing the power of Jesus in your life as you have ministered in His name? How have you seen God working through ordinary people like us in building His kingdom (it is His power, but we have seen God bless our ministering)? Examples may include things like: inviting others to an event or church and you thought they would say no but they came. Or you visited someone in the hospital, cared for someone, cooked a meal and then heard later that it was more impactful than you thought it would be. Do you have any examples that would substantiate “God showed up big time, more than I expected or could have done in my own strength?”

Verses 2 and 19 speak to praying and authority. Where did the power come from for their fruitful ministry? Where does the power come from today (Matthew 28:18)?

Do we really believe that the King is still empowering us today to do such fruitful ministry? The authority is still the same to take this kingdom message and GO!

Tonight, lets “pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” Would you ask Him to send out laborers into the harvest? We are all part of His laborers. Pray for your role in fulfilling the Great Commission in your community, sphere, and home. Is your vision His vision?

Discuss and meditate on these verses this week:

3 John verse 4 – “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.”

Philemon verse 6 – “and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ.”

Active sharing of your faith brings full knowledge of what you have in Christ. We are never more aware of it than when we share it. We are missing out of joy if we are not sharing it.

Wednesday:

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A Greater Joy – your name written in heaven. “Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.” (v20)

Jesus does not want to diminish our joy in cooperating with Him in gospel ministry; rather, He is warning us not to build our identity in our achievements.

Where do you find, or what things bring you joy?

While our ministry works may bring joy, how much more so does He want us to have joy, no matter what we “achieve”, in our eternal inheritance?

What things distract you from the joy you have in your eternal life? Do you find that your emotions and joy are tied to your effectiveness or success?

The fruit is produced in us by the Holy Spirit – not self-reliance and self-effort. Joy is not something that we work up. In Galatians 4:15, Paul asked – what has happened to all your blessedness? Would someone describe you as a person of joy? What has to happen in order to recapture true joy?

Application: Avoid not making your life about the ministry – seeking the next joy instead of seeking Jesus. Is your joy contingent on your fruitfulness? What is the true grounds of your joy? Is it what are doing for Jesus, or what Jesus has already done for you? The greater joy is that your sins are forgiven, His righteousness has been given to you, and that your name is written in heaven.

Thursday:

The Greatest Joy – the joy experienced within the Trinity. “In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit...” (v21)

Jesus is giving glory to the Father, for His glorious inscrutable will in the eternal plan of the Trinity in redemption His joy is on another level (even a different and stronger Greek word) – it is exuberant. He exulted in the Spirit’s work. The Holy Spirit who reveals these hidden things to the little children of the world.

We get small glimpses of joy in seeing people come to faith after praying for them for a long time. Jesus has a vision, the scope of redemption from all eternity (past to present to future).

What have we learned? It is a good thing to find joy in participating in the King’s work / commission. But your greatest joy is that your name is written in heaven. Have you lost that perspective or are you too subject to the ups and downs of life? Jesus found even greater joy in the Father’s sovereign and inscrutable ways, the Father’s plan of redeeming His people. The Holy Spirit applies this joy to Jesus.

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Enjoy a time of prayer and thanksgiving: In addition to items from above, thank God and praise Him for his eternal plan to rescue you.

Friday: Read the Sermon text for the upcoming Sunday’s sermon and look at the title of the Sermon (found on the APC website and Friday email). After reading the Bible passage, is there a section, a verse, or even a word or two that are standing out? How is God speaking to you? What do you think He wants to say to you about this passage? Spend some time in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for worship and pray that your heart will be transformed by the Holy Spirit through the hearing of the sermon.