

Finding Joy in Our Circumstances Notes

Luke 1:5-17, 25, 41, 44, 46, 47, 57-58, 2:8-20

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Main Point: Because Christ has come to be God With Us, we can find joy in our circumstances.

What is joy

1. To *discover* is to find something or someone _____ or in the course of a search.
2. Rediscovery begins with hope as its foundation because the object of the search was once found and that means it can be found _____.
3. Joy and happiness have been translated somewhat differently in our different English translations of the Bible, but the original Hebrew and Greek terms used are essentially _____.
4. Joy is an emotion of great _____ and pleasure.

Sometimes the path to joy meanders through pain (Luke 1:5-17, 25, 57-58).

1. Herod's name helps us establish a timeline and sets the scene.
2. Zechariah and Elizabeth.
 - Zechariah is a _____.
 - Elizabeth is from the daughters of Aaron which places her in a priestly lineage.
 - They are " _____ before God.
 - To be righteous before God is to walk _____ in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord.
3. Righteousness is the _____ God has for your life.
4. In Zechariah and Elizabeth's day, children were a sign of God's _____.
 - Infertility was considered a _____ or a punishment.
 - Zechariah and Elizabeth did not have children.
 - This was met with _____ from the people.
5. Joy is _____.
6. In this area of infertility, they did not have joy, they had _____.
 - Living a righteous life does not mean you will have _____ in all things.
 - Pain does not _____ while living a righteous life.
7. To *meander* is to follow a _____ course.
 - The path of pain is often full of twists, turns, and fog.
 - If you are on a painful path, _____. Keep praying.
8. Zechariah's priestly division is on duty at the temple.
 - A priest has to go into the temple of the Lord and burn _____.
 - This happened _____ times per day.
 - Zechariah was chosen through a lottery system.
 - The angel Gabriel is standing just to right of the _____ of incense.
 - In verse 13, Gabriel delivers God's first message to Israel in over _____ years.
9. They will have joy that God heard their prayer and answered them with a son.
 - John is going to follow God.
 - The role of priest is to _____ people back to God.
 - It's the priest responsibility to help the people practice righteousness, to confess sins, to repent, to worship, to be in right-standing with God.
 - John is going to preach _____ because the Messiah is coming.

10. What God did

- They heard the first message from God in 400 years.
- God heard their prayer and they're going to have a son.
- There is a _____% chance their son is going to follow God.
- He is going to encourage others to do the same and proclaim a message of repentance.
- He's going to be a precursor to the _____.

11. Even in the _____ of your pain, joy can be found.

Joy is found in recognizing Jesus (Luke 1:41, 44, 46, 47)

1. Mary enters the room and Elizabeth _____ to Mary's greeting.
2. John the Baptist, who is just a baby inside of Elizabeth, leaps, not because Mary entered the room, but because _____ did.
 - The focus here is on _____.
 - John the Baptist's leap was so great, so strong, that it couldn't have been mistaken for anything else.
 - It was a leap full of _____.
 - The enthusiasm carries over to Elizabeth.
3. The joy of John the Baptist, Elizabeth, and Mary is rooted in _____.
4. God expects you to conform to His moral and spiritual standards of right and wrong and to live by those standards, _____, all of the time.
 - _____ is righteous, no not one (Romans 3:10-12).
 - In our culture, when people don't measure up, we tend to have a compassion that causes us to _____ the standards.
 - God's standard of righteousness remains the _____.
 - He sent His only Son to _____ the standard.
 - Jesus made it _____ for us to be made right with Him.
5. When we place our faith in Him for the forgiveness of our sins, _____ our sin to Him and His righteousness to us, so, when God looks at us, He sees the perpetual righteousness of His Son.
6. Joy has a name, it's Jesus.

Joy is found in confession, repentance, and forgiveness of sins.

1. If you are a Christ-follower and you find yourself lacking joy, is there a sin issue that needs to be addressed?
2. One of the fastest ways to kill joy is to _____.
3. One of the hardest sin issues for us to wrap our minds around is _____.
 - I'm not sure which one is harder: extending forgiveness or receiving forgiveness.
 - With God's help I can receive and extend forgiveness, the question is "Do I _____ to?"

Joy is found when you share the Gospel (Luke 2:8-10)

1. The shepherds responded to the Angel's message with _____ and headed to Bethlehem to see this Jesus.
2. The shepherds provided a _____ to Mary, Joseph, and anyone else around of what they heard from the angel in the field.
 - Their testimony caused those who heard it to "_____."
 - To "wonder" is to be extraordinarily _____ or disturbed by something.
 - They were just being obedient and faithfully followed the message they heard, _____ that message with anyone who would listen.