

## I. What Joy Does Jesus Have?

### A. Read John 15:9-11

1. The words we just read together were spoken after the Last Supper on the night of His betrayal and arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane
2. Before an entire day has passed, this same Jesus will be dead.
  - a. Jesus will be arrested
  - b. Tried before an illegal tribunal
  - c. Taken before Pilate who willingly condemns to death as an act of political convenience a man he knows to be innocent
  - d. Rejected by a mob that prefers a murderer to the LifeGiver
  - e. Beaten, abused, crowned with thorns, paraded through the streets as a criminal
  - f. Forced to carry a massive wooded crossbeam that proves more than He can do in His weakened physical condition
  - g. Stripped, nailed to a cross, mocked, ridiculed
  - h. He will suffer the judgment of His Father
  - i. He will breathe His last and die
  - j. The Light that Came Into the World will be ushered out of the world, laid to rest hurriedly in a cold, dark tomb before the night of Sabbath rest begins
3. What the Bible says of this Jesus
  - a. **Isaiah 53:3-11 (ESV)** <sup>3</sup> *He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.* <sup>4</sup> *Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.* <sup>5</sup> *But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.* <sup>6</sup> *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.* <sup>7</sup> *He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.* <sup>8</sup> *By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people?* <sup>9</sup> *And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.* <sup>10</sup> *Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.* <sup>11</sup> *Out of the anguish of his soul*

*he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.*

- b. **Luke 22:41-44 (ESV)** <sup>41</sup> *And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed,* <sup>42</sup> *saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done."* <sup>43</sup> *And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him.* <sup>44</sup> *And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.*
- c. **Matthew 27:46 (ESV)** *And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"*
- 4. Yet, this is Jesus, this is the man sorrows Who says to His disciples, "These things have I spoken to you that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."
  - a. He must have been a man of joy or the disciples would have found nothing desirable in this offer!
  - b. What child would come for an embrace or crowds mass for an audience were Jesus no more than grief or sorrow?
  - c. **Psalm 45:7 (ESV)** *you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions;*
  - d. Jesus Himself announces twice His desire that His joy be the living experience of His disciples
    - (1) **John 15:11 (ESV)** *These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.*
    - (2) **John 16:24 (ESV)** *Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.*
  - e. Jesus prays that His joy will be in His disciples
    - (1) **John 17:13 (ESV)** *But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves.*

## **B. What Joy Can Jesus, the man of sorrows, Possibly Have to Give?**

- 1. The joy of unshakeable contentment and satisfaction with the Father
  - a. **John 5:19 (ESV)** *So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.*
  - b. **John 5:30 (ESV)** *"I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me.*
  - c. "He delights in receiving from his Father, and being known by his Father, and knowing his Father, and bringing others into knowing

his Father.”

d. **Psalm 16:11 (ESV)** *You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

- (1) Joy is not a matter of situations and circumstances but of authentic relationship with God
- (2) Joy is born out of knowing God personally, loving God intimately, obeying God faithfully, and receiving God abundantly

2. The joy of unwavering confidence in the perfect will and purpose of the Father

a. Our griefs, sorrows, and iniquities

- (1) **Isaiah 53:4-6 (ESV)** *<sup>4</sup> Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup> But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. <sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*
- (2) **Isaiah 53:10 (ESV)** *Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.*

b. The means by which sinners would return to God

- (1) **Hebrews 12:2 (ESV)** *<sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who 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.*
- (2) **Luke 15:5-7 (ESV)** *<sup>5</sup> And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. <sup>6</sup> 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.’ <sup>7</sup> 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.*
  - (a) No one in heaven nor all of heaven together can exceed the Father’s joy in the personal fulfilment of His plan in the lives of His people
  - (b) No one in heaven nor all of heaven together can exceed the Father’s joy in the obedience and success of His son’s sacrifice
  - (c) It is to God’s glory that repentant sinners are reestablished by grace into His love

3. The joy of an unflinching expectation of the Father’s promise

- a. In the resurrection and ascension we see the living proof that God will one day call home to His eternal glorious presence those who put their faith in Christ
  - (1) **John 14:1-3 (ESV)** <sup>1</sup> *“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.*
  - (2) **John 17:24 (ESV)** *Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.*

## II. How Can His Joy Be In Me?

### A. Through His word

1. “These things I speak” - through His word by the working of His Spirit in us we gain Jesus’ own capacity to know and enjoy and live in God’s own joy.
2. **John 14:25-26 (ESV)** <sup>25</sup> *“These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. <sup>26</sup> But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.*

### B. By divine pronouncement

1. **Matthew 5:12 (ESV)** *Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*
2. **Luke 6:23 (ESV)** *Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.*
3. **Luke 10:20 (ESV)** *Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”*

### C. By personal commitment

1. My Resolution (Author Unknown)  
I won’t look back; God knows the fruitless effort,  
The wasted hours, the sinning, the regrets. I’ll  
leave them all with Him Who blots the record and  
mercifully forgives and then forgets.

I won’t look forward; God sees all the future, the road that, short or long, will lead me home, and he will face with me its every trial and bear with me the burdens that may come.

But I’ll look up . . . into the face of Jesus, for there my heart can rest, my fears are still, and there is joy and love and light for darkness and perfect peace, and every hope fulfilled.