

The Gospel According to Luke

Luke 10:21-24

Reading: Luke 10:21-24

Jesus: Man Of Joy

Sermon #45

August 18, 2019

Sorrow and Joy

This morning we will continue our study of the Gospel of Luke in verses 21-24 of the 10th Chapter. In these verses we will remember that Jesus is the only means of salvation and that there is a difference between believing in Jesus and knowing about Jesus. It is an amazing paragraph, one that could be the foundation of dozens of sermons because it is deep with truth.

Many are more familiar that Jesus was a man of sorrows because of his suffering, but he was also a man of joy. Jesus' sorrow was a heavy burden, as we have been moving through the gospel of Luke, we have sensed an increasing sorrow as one comes ever nearer to the cross. This is to be expected for the prophet Isaiah wrote in the 53rd chapter the Messiah *“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.”* (Isaiah 53:3)

It was the Apostle John who recorded that at the grave of Lazarus, *“When Jesus saw ~~her~~ Mary weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled.”* (John 11:33) Jesus, seeing the power of death over people, wept. Luke records that when Jesus approached Jerusalem, He saw the city and wept over it. Both Matthew and Mark tell us that as Jesus approached the cross, He was filled with such trepidation and such sorrow

that He said, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death.” (Matthew 26:38) Jesus grieved to the point it almost killed him.

The Book of Hebrews looks at Jesus’ life in anticipation of the cross, the suffering in the garden and sweating with drops of blood under the sadness of that experience and the writer says of Jesus, “In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him, *God the Father who was able to save him from death.*” (Hebrews 5:7) Jesus’ life was a life filled with sadness. Jesus’ sorrow increased and increased as the months went by and He moved toward the horrific sorrow of the garden and the absolutely immeasurable sorrow of the separation from the Father in His sin-bearing death on the cross when He cried out the saddest words that he ever uttered, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Mark 15:34)

Jesus lived a life of facing sin as the only sinless One and of living among sinners as the perfectly pure One. His was the life lived among the apathy and indifference of men, as well as man’s rejection and hostility. His was a life lived surrounded by human sickness of sin and spiritual death, and he suffered rejection, hatred and ultimately execution at the hands of those he came to save. He had created the universe and a small planet called earth and this planet delivered sorrow felt throughout the cosmos. Jesus experienced and lived a profound kind of sadness related not only to what He saw in the world corrupted by sin, but He knew intimately the reality of an eternity without God – what a horrible sentence for all those who rejected His gospel. He deserved for people to bring him glory, to love him, to be honored and to be obeyed. He deserved only to be glorified and yet He received just the opposite, so He was, as Isaiah said, a man of extreme sorrow. These are hard facts and difficult thoughts but they are true because of mankind’s sin. Now we will move on to examine the joy of Jesus. His joy is to be our joy.

Jesus' Joy

For many, we may understand the sorrows of Jesus' life but are less familiar with his joy. The joy of the Triune God begins in the Old Testament. In Isaiah chapter 62 God rejoices over a future faithful Israel. God reveals to the prophet the future time when Israel repents and embraces the Messiah, a time when it is restored to God and receives the kingdom. God's sorrow over fallen mankind is not the end, for he has joy over the culmination of redemptive history in the glorious kingdom of His Son. The prophet Zephaniah had a revelation of God's future joy over a restored and regenerated Israel in the millennial kingdom yet to come. Afterward the prophet wrote, ¹⁴“Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! ¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. ¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: ‘Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. ¹⁷The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one, *Jesus*, who will save; **he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.**” (Zephaniah 3:14-17)

For God there is no beginning or end, he is outside of time and mankind's future joy of the millennial glory of Jesus Christ when He reigns of King of kings and Lord of lords over a redeemed Israel and a redeemed humanity on the earth has not come about in history, but for God, it has been completed. That is, future joy for mankind and completed joy for God. Hebrews says, we are to look “**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.**” (Hebrews 12:2) Jesus also lived as a man and in his human form he was a man of sorrows who looked to a future joy, the joy of knowing what His death

would produce – the salvation of man and he looked ahead to redemption and his eternal kingdom with great joy.

Our Lord Jesus, as we shall see later in the 15th chapter of Luke, tells us that there is joy in heaven every time a sinner repents, every time a lost soul is found. Every time a prodigal person returns to the Father - heaven rejoices. Our Lord, not someone else's, but our Lord, Jesus, tells believers in John 15, **“These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.”** In Jesus' high priestly prayer to God the Father in John 17, he says, **“These things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves.”** (John 15:11 and 17:13) Jesus has joy in God the Father and the Father has joy in Jesus and they both have joy **“made full”** because of Jesus' death and resurrection that brings salvation for mankind. So, the Bible does talk about joy in heaven when sinners repent, joy for believers here on earth when they believe in Jesus as the Christ and Jesus' joy in the future when God's plan of redemption comes to its glorious climax when he returns and reigns.

Only in this passage does it ever talk about Jesus' joy and his rejoicing during His life on earth. Jesus had both present and future joy in the kingdom, joy in heaven, the joy that he had face to face with the Father in eternal glory which one day he will share with those who come to heaven. But only once does it ever say Jesus rejoiced during His earthly life. We are thus provided with that phrase, that sentence, **“He rejoiced greatly and in the Holy Spirit”**, a tremendous insight and this is the only place we get it. There is something especially sacred about this text. This is a unique scriptural treasure. This is a pearl of great price, an inestimable jewel dropped in the middle of this gospel that moves us behind the man of sorrows with escalating suffering and sadness to see Jesus the Christ's joy.

Authentic Joy

In verse 22 of our passage in Luke, Jesus says, **“All things have been handed over to me.”** All things, means everything and therefore there is nothing outside His control. He is preeminent over all. Paul in Philippians 2 says concerning Jesus, **“God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”** (Philippians 2:9-11) Jesus is mankind’s only hope.

The actor Steve Martin is an avid art collector and greatly desired a painting by the German expressionist painter Heinrich Campendonk. Finally, in 2004 Martin bought *Landscape With Horses* for \$850,000.00. He was overwhelmed with joy owning his painting. Martin was shattered a few years later when it was discovered that it was a fake. Martin had placed his faith in experts who verified it a genuine. His faith was real but it was misplaced and he suffered financial lose. It is the same with the spiritual; only Jesus Christ of the Bible can save. Only Jesus is one with God the Father. Jesus said, **“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”** (John 14:6) This is the reason Jesus says in verse 22, **“All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”** The scriptures are clear and the apostles are clear, as Peter wrote, **“there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”** (Acts 4:12) So the Bible is clear, but the evil one has confused the lost world with other religions and secularism and humanism and anti-godism. There is only one true God. Many religions are like the painting Steve Martin bought; they look real on the surface, but if one truly examines them, they will see the fakeness.

So, when other religions speak of Jesus; it may appear to be Jesus, but when held up to the Word of God the falseness will come to the surface. It is not just the false Jesus of Baha'i, Islam, Mormonism and Jehovah's Witnesses but the Jesus taught by denominations that were once Christian, such as, Episcopal, United Methodist and Presbyterian USA churches who have added to and taken away and changed the Word of God to make it what they want it to be. They no longer know the Jesus of the Bible. The names are right, they speak Christianese, but the facts are not true - like Martin's painting they are fake. Believing Jesus as a historical person who once lived and did good for the poor and brought social change is not what saves. One must believe in Jesus Christ of the Bible as their personal Lord and Savior who owns their life and soul.

Jesus spoke of his return to heaven and the coming of the Holy Spirit, **“when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰ concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹ concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.”** (John 16:8-11) Jesus' resurrection brought judgement of the prince of this world and his days are now numbered. But we need to understand there are false spirits, just as there are false Christs, that lead people to have faith in false religions and false Christs. The power of the true Holy Spirit fulfills the Word of God in a believer's life and does not promote things that are contrary to God's Word. This is the very reason why Paul wrote to the church in Rome, **“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 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 12:1-2) My

beloved, we are to be living sacrifices to God and not conformed to this world. Canyon Bible is to be a remnant church and not a broad church, as many have become to please the world. We say along with the Apostle Paul, “I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.” (Philippians 3:8-11)

To know Jesus is to live by faith and not by works and to refuse to bargain with God. You refuse to believe the lies of works-based religion that says God will help you and love you only if you are good enough. You refuse to believe in gods that contrary to the teaches of the Bible to make them more appealing to the world. Knowing Jesus means you have “access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” (Romans 5:2) Knowing Jesus means, you know you are not good enough, but that Jesus is good enough. Knowing Jesus means, you refuse to compare yourself to others. You know that your goodness is not based on them. This frees you from the temptation to gossip about and slander others in an effort to make yourself look better. Knowing Jesus means, as Paul said, you “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.” (Philippians 2:3)

Knowing Jesus means, you refuse to fall into the trap of seeing the trials and troubles of this world as God’s unfaithfulness and unconcern. Instead, you live out your life as James instructed, “Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials

of various kinds,³ for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.⁴ And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.” (James 1:2-4) There are those in churches who talk Christian, serve in Jesus’ name only because they have never truly met him and let him into their heart. When difficulties come; they abandon their false faith. People say how could this person abandon their faith, they have lost their salvation. The truth is they never had true faith or salvation. The painting of their faith appeared genuine, like Martin’s *Landscape with Horses*, but when examined by the Word of God and the fruits of the Spirit it proved fake. It is these who know about Jesus that gravitate towards the broad churches pleasing the world who treat the Bible as a cafeteria system of “pick and choose” what one likes. Well, it is easy to see why Jesus was a man of sorrows and harder to see his joy when we focus on man’s present fallen state of sin. Jesus had joy in redeemed man’s future and our joy is in Jesus the redeemer.

Jesus found joy in the fact that the gospel was not limited to the worldly wise and the intelligent but it was available to anybody, whether they were smart or dumb, it is available to all who humble themselves before a holy God. This is what Jesus says in verse 21, “**you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children.**” God whose intelligence is infinite, the eternal, inscrutable, limitless, whose mind is limitless; this God has absolutely no trouble communicating with the simplest or most intellectual of souls. But, if you want to know Him, you have to set aside your worldly intellect and open your heart and soul to eternal truth that defies what the prince of this world wants you to focus on and let God’s truth become the essence of who you are and then you will be a child of the living God.

What does that mean? One comes humbly saying, “Lord, I bring nothing of the world, fill me with faith in Your Son by Your Spirit and let me live for Your glory. Jesus is pleased with this because in the end all the glory belongs to God. Nobody becomes a child of God by human wisdom. Nobody becomes a child of God by human intelligence or effort. Everybody becomes a child of the Living God by recognizing that they have nothing in themselves that can reach God and with broken and contrite hearts, they tremble at His Word and they submit to the simple, glorious gospel of Christ, like a little child who is totally dependent upon their parents. Despite, the sorrows of the world, Jesus found his joy in the Father’s plan of salvation. I am so thrilled, Father, that You hid this from those who if finding it through pride and human wisdom would therefore commend themselves. If one could bring about their own salvation, they would boast in themselves and therefore would be proud of themselves and You, oh God, determined that the only people who are ever going to know You are those who humble themselves like a little child. It is in this way that for all eternity, all the glory, all the praise will belong to You. As Paul understood and wrote, it is by this childlike faith that, “God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are,²⁹ so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.³⁰ And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption,³¹ so that, as it is written, ‘Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.’” (1 Corinthians 1:28-31)

So, the Son rejoices that the Father has designed a salvation plan by which man must be humbled, in order that God will be glorified in everything. Here is how the prophet Isaiah wrote what God said, “All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the LORD. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.” (Isaiah

66:2) I think, Jesus is saying something like, “Father, I am just saying that I am thrilled as I look past the sadness and the sorrow of the sin-cursed world and I look to the future and I realize that heaven is going to be filled with the children, filled with those who were crushed and broken into humble, contrite, penitent believers who cast themselves on the mercy of Your gospel truth so that through all eternity You will be forever glorified.” My beloved, this is the plan, this is God the Father’s plan, this is God the Son’s plan, this is God the Holy Spirit’s plan and it is our plan. Examine yourself. Do you know Jesus or do you simply know about Jesus? Does your life, under examination, prove that your thoughts, words and actions are grounded in your knowledge of Jesus, belief in Jesus as the Christ? Are you a true painting by God the Master Creator, is your soul one in which God has painted each stroke or upon examination is your life a forgery living falsely? My beloved, it by the Triune God, that we can experience the joy of Christ in all things. Jesus had joy in the Father and he gives those who believe joy in him and the Father. Amen and amen!