



Sermon Notes

Advent 2024-3

From Sorrow to Joy

Psalms 31:10 My life is consumed by anguish and my years by groaning; my strength fails because of my affliction, and my bones grow weak.

Advent: Wait Expectantly- Isaiah 9:1-7

Advent 1 - From Despair to Hope - "Mighty God"

Advent 2 - From Anxiety to Peace - "Prince of Peace"

Advent 3 - From Sorrow to Joy - "Wonderful Counselor"

Advent 4 - From Indifference to Love - "Everlasting Father"

Isaiah 9:1-6 But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

2 The people who walked in darkness

have seen a great light;

those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,

on them has light shone.

3 You have multiplied the nation;

you have increased its joy;

they rejoice before you

as with joy at the harvest,

as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

4 For the yoke of his burden,

and the staff for his shoulder,

the rod of his oppressor,

you have broken as on the day of Midian.

5 For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult

and every garment rolled in blood

will be burned as fuel for the fire.

6 For to us a child is born,

to us a son is given;

and the government shall be upon his shoulder,

and his name shall be called

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

A. God wants you to have Joy.

Jeremiah 31:13 says, "I will turn their mourning into gladness; / I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow."

1 Thessalonians 5:16 "Be joyful always."

John 15:11 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

Joy is the defiance of the world, for the Christian's joy is not tied to circumstances but to the eternal reality of God's love. - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

B. Joy in Suffering

James 1:22 "Consider it all joy, my brothers, when you encounter various trials. Is not something that you can do.

Isaiah 9: 6 For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;

Luke 2:10 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord

Suffering is not meaningless. It's a treasure. And one day, when I see Jesus, I'll see it as a treasure. And I think that's what's going to make the 'new heavens and the new earth' so magnificent." - Joni Eareckson Tada

"God's grace is not just for the good times; it's for the hard times, too. I've learned that the more I lean on God, the more I find joy in Him. - Joni Eareckson Tada

Perfect joy when the perfect comes, present joy when the presence comes.

Big idea: Your sorrow is changed to Joy because Jesus is given to you.



From Sorrow to Joy

Read Jeremiah 31:13, 1 Thessalonians 5:16, and John 15:11.

-What do you believe God's intention is for your joy, both in times of peace and in times of trial?

- Think about a time of sorrow or suffering. How did God meet you in that moment? How did His presence or promises bring you hope or joy in the midst of pain?"

- When you think of 'joy' as it's described in Scripture, how do you understand it?

- On a scale from 1 to 7, how would you rate your experience of joy right now? What factors influence your joy—both positively and negatively?

- How could you grow in joy these next few months?

Pray Together

specifically for any sorrow within our group to be transformed by God's healing presence. May He replace our sorrow with a deep, abiding joy that comes from knowing His love and His promises to us.