**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | How to Have Joy |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | John 15:11 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #1916 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. John 15 was written about the life of the Lord Jesus as He faced the cross.
      1. But this verse does not deal with suffering, agony, pain, or despair.
         1. Instead, it deals with joy.
         2. In the face of the crucifixion, on the brink of agony, Jesus spoke of joy.
   2. All humankind wants joy.
      1. The problem is that they look for it in the wrong places.
      2. They try to find joy; they will not find it until they look in the right place.
   3. The key verse on joy in the Bible is John 15:11.
   4. The life of a Christian is to be a life of joy.
      1. A joyless Christian is a contradiction in terms.
         1. It would be like saying “a Heavenly devil.”
      2. If we don’t have joy, then there is something wrong with you.
      3. A Christian’s life is to be a life of continual and conspicuous joy.
      4. Contagious joy is to be ours if we know the Lord Jesus Christ.
   5. We can know Jesus and not have joy.
      1. Joy is not inevitable; joy is optional.
         1. But we ought to have joy if we want joy.
   6. Joy is important in winning the lost.
      1. Many of us try to witness about our faith, but we look like an advanced agent for the undertaker with a Bible under one arm and a tombstone under the other.
      2. David lost his joy, and then he prayed.
         1. Psalm 51:12-13
      3. The joy of a congregation means as much when a lost person comes into a church as what is being preached from the pulpit.
         1. What we believe is caught as well as taught.
   7. The joy of the Lord is indispensable in serving the Lord.
      1. Nehemiah 8:10
      2. Psalm 100:2
      3. Joy takes the weariness, burden, and labor out of serving the Lord.
   8. The joy of the Lord is necessary when we have problems.
      1. We will have problems.
         1. Job 14:1
      2. One person wisely said that, “Pain is inevitable, but misery is optional.”
      3. God never intended for us to be free of pain.
         1. God also never intended for us to be filled with misery.
   9. The joy of the Lord is not a nicety; it is a necessity.
      1. Joy is the lubricant of life.
   10. In today’s message, we will look at what the Lord Jesus teaches about joy, how we can have it, and what it is.
       1. 1 Peter 1:8
2. this joy is supernatural in its source (john 15:11)
   1. Not joy like His, but His joy.
   2. The life of Jesus was a life of joy.
      1. Psalm 45:7
         1. No one ever had joy like the Lord Jesus.
         2. The word “gladness” here has the idea of leaping.
            1. It is the idea of when John the Baptist was in the womb of Elizabeth, and the baby Jesus was in the womb of Mary.
            2. The Bible says that the baby in Elizabeth’s womb “*leaped for joy*.”

Luke 1:41

* 1. Don’t get the idea that Jesus was a religious recluse.
     1. Jesus was the life of the party.
     2. Jesus rejoiced with people because He had real joy.
     3. Jesus was the kind of person whom little children wanted to be around.
  2. John 15:11
     1. This joy is supernatural joy.
     2. Jesus says the same thing in John 17:13.
  3. Paul said, “*Rejoice in the Lord*.”
     1. Philippians 4:4
     2. Rejoice not in circumstances, but rejoice in the Lord.
  4. This joy is not just talking about cheering up.
     1. It is supernatural in its source.

1. this joy is steadfast in its strength (john 15:11)
   1. Only when joy is supernatural at its source can it be steadfast in its strength.
   2. Because it is supernatural, it is steadfast.
   3. The joy of the Lord is steadfast in sorrow.
      1. Many think that the shortest verse in the Bible is “Jesus wept.”
         1. John 11:35
         2. It is the shortest verse in the English Bible, but it is not the shortest verse in the Greek Bible.
            1. The Scripture was written in Greek and translated into English.
      2. The shortest verse in the Greek is 1 Thessalonians 5:16.
         1. It is two words in English but one word in Greek.
         2. “*Rejoice evermore*.”
            1. It is the shortest verse, but it deals with the longest time.
      3. This joy will remain; it is not happiness.
         1. We are not supposed to be happy all the time.
      4. Jesus, who had joy, was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.
         1. Isaiah 53:3
         2. The Bible tells us that Jesus wept.
            1. John 11:35
      5. The difference between joy and happiness:
         1. Happiness may give smiles and put laughter on our faces, but happiness is just what the word describes.
            1. Happiness depends on what happens.
         2. Joy depends upon the Lord.
            1. It is supernatural; it is not natural.
            2. Because joy is supernatural, it is steadfast.
         3. Happiness is like a cosmetic; it is on the outside.
         4. Joy is rooted in character.
         5. Happiness responds to surface needs, while joy deals with our deepest needs.
         6. Happiness is like a thermometer.
            1. It measures and registers conditions.
         7. Joy is like a thermostat.
            1. It controls conditions.
         8. Happiness evaporates in the time of suffering, but joy is often deepened because we come to the Lord and depend upon Him.
      6. It is wonderful when happiness and joy get together.
         1. Our happiest moments are made even happier when they are mingled with the joy of the Lord.
      7. If we take away happiness, then we will find that joy may intensify.
         1. As Jesus faced the cross, He was not happy.
            1. Jesus said that there was no sorrow like His sorrow.

Lamentations 1:12

* + - * 1. Yet, He said, “These things have I spoken unto you, that My joy might remain in you and that your joy might be full.”

John 15:11

* + 1. It is cruel to tell people to just smile and be happy when they are hurting.
       1. Instead, sit down and weep with them.
    2. No one is happy all of the time.
       1. We are not expected to be.
       2. We are to have joy all the time.
          1. Philippians 4:4
    3. John 16:20
       1. Jesus, facing Gethsemane and Calvary, knew that His joy and our joy are to be steadfast in sorrow.
  1. The joy of the Lord is triumphant in tribulation.
     1. John 16:33
     2. 2 Corinthians 7:4
        1. Paul didn’t say that he was joyful because he didn’t have tribulation.
     3. Christianity is not the subtraction of problems from life; it is the addition of power to meet those problems.
     4. At midnight, Paul and Silas sang praises to God while they were in prison.
        1. They had been beaten, lacerated, and were in a filthy dungeon.
           1. Yet, they were joyful in all their tribulation.
        2. Acts 16:25
  2. The joy of the Lord is lasting in losses.
     1. Hebrews 10:34
        1. The writer of Hebrews was talking to the Christian community.
     2. Suppose everything in your house had been carried out by thieves.
        1. Would that take away your joy?
           1. If it does, then those things were the source of your joy.
        2. Our joy is no better than its source.
        3. We have to have something better than this as the source of our joy in order to have joy that is steadfast.
           1. John 15:11
     3. Consider where our joy comes from.
        1. If our joy is in things or people and we lose them, then we can lose our joy.
        2. But if our joy is in the Lord, comes from the Lord, and He is enthroned in our hearts, then that joy can never be taken away.
  3. The joy of the Lord is abundant in affliction.
     1. 1 Thessalonians 1:6
     2. Leonard Ravenhill: “This joy is as real at the graveside as at the fireside. It does not evaporate in the heat of adversities. It does not wither at the onslaught of calamities. It does not sour under the test of poverty. It does not die at the cruel hand of tragedy. It does not falter in the presence of misery.”
  4. John 15:11

1. this joy is sublime in its secret (John 15:11)
   1. This joy is not automatic.
      1. It is not just believing in Jesus.
      2. It is not being saved and on your way to Heaven.
         1. A person can go to Heaven second class and be miserable all the way.
      3. Jesus was speaking here to those who were already saved.
   2. John 15:5
      1. Jesus had been speaking about abiding in Him.
      2. The secret of joy is simple.
         1. It is so clear and plain that we may miss it.
      3. The sublime secret of joy is abiding in Jesus.
      4. John 15:11
         1. What had He spoken?
            1. John 15:5
   3. What does it mean to abide in Jesus?
      1. It is a life of reliance on the Lord Jesus.
         1. Jesus used the figure of a grapevine and the branches.
            1. John 15:4-5
            2. A branch is absolutely dependent upon the vine.
            3. If a branch is severed from the vine, then what good is it?

Furniture cannot be made out of it.

It cannot be carved.

It doesn’t make a good fire.

The only thing the branch is good for is to abide in the vine and bear fruit.

* + - 1. We are totally dependent upon Jesus.
         1. Most of us don’t realize this.
         2. Most of us think that we can do a little bit.

But Jesus said to abide in Him, rely on Him, and that without Him we can do nothing.

* + - 1. God specializes in making something out of nothing.
         1. If we think we are something, then Jesus is not everything.
         2. Not until we are willing to become nothing and He becomes everything can He make something out of us.
    1. It is a life of restfulness in Jesus.
       1. John 15:9
       2. Let His love come into you.
          1. His power is there.
       3. Not only rely upon Him, but rest in Him.
       4. There are many people who are upset because they don’t know what they are going to do if their resources run out.
       5. Suppose we had a conversation with a branch that is abiding in the vine.
          1. We ask the branch why it is so calm and what the secret of its restfulness is.
          2. It tells how it notices how people run around all the time trying to produce a lot, but they don’t produce much except worry.
          3. But the branch is just resting in the love the vine has for it.

It is letting His life flow into it.

* + - * 1. The branch doesn’t worry when it needs nourishment or moisture.

It just abides in the vine.

The vine brings moisture to cool the branch.

* + - * 1. What about in springtime when the branch needs leaves and buds?

The branch does not worry about that.

The vine sends its life into the branch and produces leaves, buds, and grapes.

The branch does not produce the grapes.

It just bears the grapes.

The vine produces the grapes.

The branch doesn’t worry about what size, how many there are, or how sweet the grapes are.

That is none of its business.

* + - * 1. The branch has but one thing to do, and that is to abide in the vine.
    1. It is a life of relinquishment to Jesus.
       1. A branch exists for one purpose.
          1. It is to abide in Jesus Christ.

This is where joy comes from.

* + - 1. John 15:11
      2. We cannot have joy apart from Jesus Christ.
    1. It is a life of rejoicing because of Jesus.
       1. When we have a life of reliance, rest and relinquishment, then we will know rejoicing.
       2. Jesus said it.
          1. He begins in the first part of John 15 telling us about abiding in Him.
          2. Then, He comes to verse 11 and says, “And these things have I spoken unto you, that My joy might remain in you and that your joy might be full.”

1. CONCLUSION
   1. You can have joy in a lot of things:
      1. Family
      2. Home
      3. Friends
      4. Health.
         1. God doesn’t say to not rejoice in those things.
            1. He just says that beyond these things, you need a source of joy that is constant, real, and cannot fade away.
   2. The way that you have that joy is to abide in Jesus, rely upon Him, rest in Him, relinquish to Him, and rejoice in Him.
      1. Jesus said that when you do this, you will bear fruit.
         1. And the fruit of the Spirit is joy.
            1. Galatians 5:22
   3. You don’t produce this joy.
      1. It is supernatural.
      2. It is His joy.
      3. You bear this fruit as you abide in the Lord Jesus.
   4. Jesus sent His disciples out to witness.
      1. When they came back, they were thrilled because the demons were subject to them in Jesus’ name.
         1. Luke 10:17
      2. But Jesus said not to rejoice in this, but to rejoice that their names are written in Heaven.
         1. Luke 10:20
         2. Is your name written in Heaven?
   5. Matthew 10:32-33
   6. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   7. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16