

“Jesus, the Joyful One”
March 4, 2012

Hebrews 1:1-3

1 John 1:2-4 (The Message) (*“We want you to enjoy Him as thoroughly as we did”*)

PROP- One of the most distinguishing dynamics of Jesus’ personality is His UNQUENCHABLE JOY.

Luke 2:10- “Good news of GREAT JOY which shall be to ALL people.”

(So contagious was Jesus’ joy—John leaped for joy in the womb- **Luke 1:44**)

John 15:11- “...that My joy (personal) may remain in you (everlasting joy; abiding; never depart) and (as a result) that your joy will be full.”

1. His Joy is Connected to His PERSPECTIVE

- **Puts the enemy’s plans into perspective (See Psalm 2:2-4)**
- **Not arrogance—He is “humble in heart”—simply confident**
- **“Joyful, Joyful we adore Thee...Giver of immortal gladness”- (1907) by Henry van Dyke [He is the Joyful One...Giver of Gladness]**
- **Hebrews 1:9- “Anointed with the oil of gladness”**
- **Hebrews 12:2- “Joy set before Him”- He carried the weight of the world and the fullness of joy at the same time!**

2. His Joy Flows from His LOVE

- **John 15:9-11- His joy & His love are inseparable**
- **Luke 10:2- He is so “full of joy”—to jump for joy; spin like a top—that all may know Him and experience life with Him ...He is overjoyed that no one will be left out or marginalized...”Whosoever will may come!”**

3. Jesus simply ENJOYS LIFE

- **He loved gathering “at table” (*place of acceptance, honor, & forgiveness*) w/ “lost sheep” (orphaned hearts)—not frowning, “Mr. Killjoy”—in fact, He had so much fun they called Him a “drunkard” (Matthew 11:19)**
- **Matthew 17:24-27 was probably one of those stories they reminisced & laughed about around the campfire at night**
- **He was playful—often “acting as if...” (i.e., walking on the lake- Luke 6:48ff...or on road to Emmaus- Luke 24...or lakeside after the resurrection- John 21)**

4. He created us in His image with a HUGE CAPACITY FOR JOY

- He created laughter (NOTE: He named “Isaac”)—gave us a sense of humor (Not for “coarse” (Eph. 5:4) or cruel (Prov. 26:19) joking)
- John 17:3- “I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them.”
- Isaiah 35:10- Those who have been ransomed from an “empty way of life”—released from the “oppression of the enemy”—will have an “everlasting joy upon their heads.” They will “obtain (hold onto, possess, and never lose) gladness and joy—and sorrow and sighing (despairing that “things will never change”) will flee away (vamoose, skedaddle, and don’t let the screen door whack you on the way out!)”
- I have seen undeniable evidence of His unquenchable joy in the direst circumstances...because it’s not about circumstance or emotion—it’s about perspective.

RESPONSE

(Hebrews 12:2) Carrying the weight of the sins and sicknesses of the world—hanging on a tree in open ridicule & mockery—He “despised” the shame (Lit.- treating it as insignificant in light of something greater). The greater? The magnitude of sheer JOY He would bring to the earth.

- In His presence is fullness of joy (Psalm 16:11)
- His presence is in you (The “mystery of the ages”—the most amazing thing to ever be revealed/unfold)
- Jesus not only lived—He lives—making His home in yielded hearts!

Isaiah 58:12-14- What His joyful people look like on the planet!