

Joy!

The Shepherds' Candle



3rd Advent Candle

- The Shepherds' Candle
- Gaudet Sunday
- Different color than the others



Luke 2:8-20

- Revelation
- Confirmation
- Consideration
- Celebration!



Luke 2:8-20

- Revelation
- Confirmation
- Consideration
- Celebration!
- Communication →

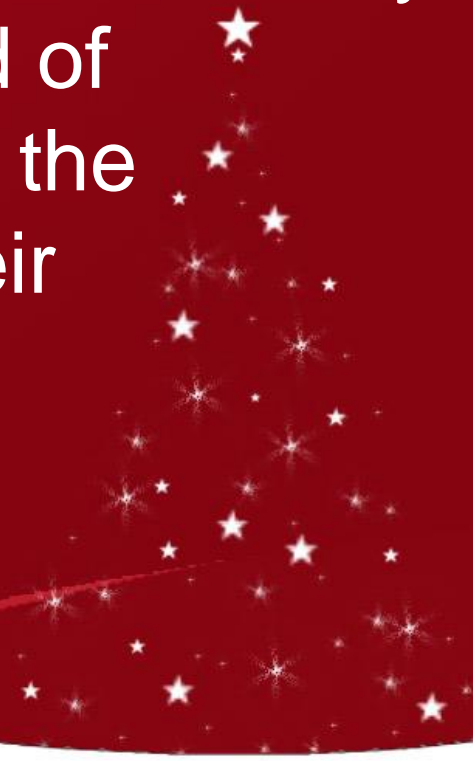


Luke 2:8-20

- Revelation
- Confirmation
- Consideration
- Celebration!
- Communication →
→ Revelation again



In the case of the Shepherds, the announcement of the Messiah was a recognized, anticipated event. The angels' announcement, while sudden and terrifying, was of an event they'd heard of all their lives. It was possibly the most joyful experience of their entire lives!



Are You a Joyful Person?

- Webster-Joy is an emotion evoked by well-being, success, good fortune, etc.
- This definition of joy is tied directly to outward experience



But the OT idea of Joy was frequently connected to God's works

The NT idea of Joy is the extreme happiness experienced when contemplating salvation and being with God personally forever.



- Every Christ-follower has access to the Joy Jesus brings



John 15:10-17

- So how does Joy work?



John 15:10-17

- So how does Joy work?
- If we Obey →



John 15:10-17

- So how does Joy work?
- If we Obey →
- We Remain in God's love →



John 15:10-17

- So how does Joy work?
- If we Obey →
- We Remain in God's love →
- Then Joy becomes complete



John 15:10-17

- How do we obey?




John 15:10-17

- How do we obey?
 1. We obey by loving others
 2. We obey by bearing fruit



John 15:10-17

- How do we obey?
 1. We obey by loving others (laying down our lives for them...)
 2. We obey by bearing *lasting* fruit
(..bringing others to Christ)
- 

again,

Obedience brings two things

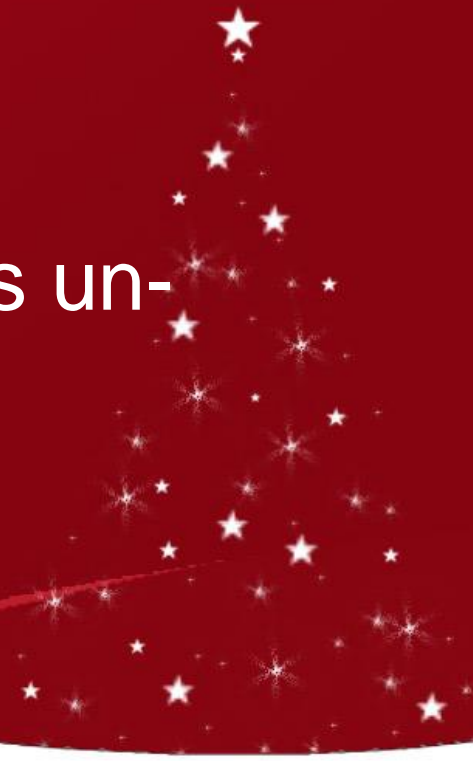
1. Joy
2. Remaining in God's love




John 15:10-17

Obedience brings two things


1. Joy-which gives protection, significance and purpose
2. Remaining in God's love-which gives security in His unconditional love



so True Joy comes from

- Being Rescued by Jesus-Hope
 - Being Forgiven through Jesus-Freedom
 - Being given Jesus new identity-Adoption
 - Being included in Jesus Epic Mission-Purpose
- 

so True Joy comes from

- Being Rescued by Jesus-Hope
 - Being Forgiven through Jesus-Freedom
 - Being given Jesus new identity-Adoption
 - Being included in Jesus Epic Mission-Purpose
 - **This Joy makes us complete!**
- 

- People who understand this principle live their lives for the eternal good of others
- Pastor Ted “Love=living for the good of others”



How do we take hold of Joy?

1. By laying down our lives for others


Because emptying ourselves fills us up!!

2. Giving our time, money, prayer,
focus, career, freedom.

Giving our everything
costs us nothing!



Philippians 2:1-8

- Jesus coming is the ultimate expression of God emptying Himself for us.
 - Heb 12:2 “..who for the Joy set before Him endured the cross...”
 - Phil 2:8 “...became obedient to death, even to death on a cross...”
- 

- He was first celebrated by the shepherds!



So how do I experience more Joy?



So how do I experience more Joy?

- Joy is independent of circumstances
- Remember Joy is all about Jesus
- Kick up my obedience!
- Ask “How can I obey today so I’ll experience more Joy?”

