

Advent of God's Joy

Luke 2:8-20

(December 16, 2012)

What would trigger your joy meter?

- 1) **God's joy often catches you by surprise 2:8-9**

- 2) **God's joy is often indescribably good news 2:10-14**

- 3) **God's joy results in our response 2:15-18**

- 4) **God's joy results in our praise to Him 2:19-20**

- Luke 1:46-55
- Nehemiah 8:1-10

In your darkness, God will manifest His joy!

- Joy is a choice. Joy is not happiness. Happiness depends on what is happening. Joy is the settled assurance that God is in control. It will be manifest with assurance, trust, singing, encouragement and sometimes happiness because the Lord is transforming your heart to the image of Jesus. The Lord is your joy. Look for God's joy in His word, not in the world.
- God's joy will not be explainable to those who don't know God. But they will listen and the Holy Spirit will convict them to listen to the joy of the gospel message you give them. You must give people the good news of God's work in your life. "Rejoice names written in heaven." Luke 10:20
- When you are filled with God's Spirit, God's joy is the fruit of His Spirit.
- God's joy results in continued praise for His person and purposes. Joy transforms darkness into light!

Message Based Discussion Questions

- 1) Do other people have half-full or half-empty glasses? How do you know?

Digging Deeper:

- 2) Read the context of Ecclesiastes 11:9 in Ecc. 11:7-10. What is Solomon saying in 11:9?

- 3) Sorrow is normally something we walk into because of circumstances. How does God's joy catch us by surprise today (1 Thes. 1:6, 2:19-20; 3:9; cf. Jam. 4:6-9)?

- 4) What are some examples of how God's people can work through their challenges with indescribable answers in God's joy (cf. 1 Pet. 1:6-8)?

- 5) How do you rejoice in tough situations (cf. 1 Thes. 5:16-18; Rom. 15:13)?

Making application of the message to life:

- 6) How will you encourage another to have joy this Christmas who has lost a loved one this last year? How will you come alongside them?

- 7) What is necessary in order to let your life be filled with praise in worship, even if it is not your personality or temperament? How would you disciple another who isn't characterized by joy and rejoicing?