

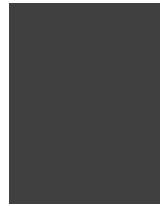
Good News -of- Great Joy

SERMON NOTES

Week 3 December 17, 2023

"The Joy We Can't Yet See"

Matthew 1:18-21; Luke 2:13, 34, 43-45; Hebrews 11:1



I. Introduction

- A. Like Joseph, all of us can look back on our lives and thank God for _____ prayers.
- B. Joseph is the patron saint of all of the men that _____ their lives into children that are not their own.
- C. In Catholicism, there is a devotional tradition called the "_____ sorrows and joys of St. Joseph."

II. The Seven Sorrows and Joys of St. Joseph

- 1. Sorrow one: The doubt of Joseph that results in heartbreak.
Joy one: Confirmation of Mary's story from the angel.
- 2. Sorrow two: The poverty of Jesus' birth.
Joy two: Gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.
- 3. Sorrow three: Joseph takes Jesus to be circumcised.
Joy three: Knowing his son was going to play a role in the salvation of the world.
- 4. Sorrow four: The prophecy of Simeon at Jesus' dedication.
Joy four: Simeon also says Jesus will be a light to the nations.
- 5. Sorrow five: Joseph and Mary have to flee Bethlehem.
Joy five: They are welcomed in Egypt and given refuge.
- 6. Sorrow six: Returning from Egypt.
Joy six: Life with Mary and Jesus in Nazareth.
- 7. Sorrow seven: Losing Jesus in Jerusalem.
Joy seven: Finding Jesus in the Temple after three days.

III. Application

- A. Have faith that _____ will follow the sorrow in your life.
- B. Theologian Miroslav Volf says in order to find joy in your life you need a shift of _____ where you look for the joy in the midst of the sorrow.
- C. Ask yourself this question in time of sorrow, "What joy is on the backside of this _____?"

Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message



ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *December 18-23, 2023*

INTRODUCTION

Like Joseph, we all have hopes and dreams for our future and we may believe that we can only find joy if those hopes and dreams come true. Sometimes, though, we find that God has other plans for us and we may have to put our own hopes and dreams on hold. But just because we can't see the joy in this season of life doesn't mean we won't find it.

Monday: Matthew 1:18-21

Joseph was "a devout Jewish man willing to give up what was often perceived to be a Jewish father's greatest privilege - siring his first-born son - in order to obey God's will."^{*} Have you ever had to give up or alter some cherished dream to obey God, or feared might you have to? If so, how are you and God working to bend that loss to produce good results?

Tuesday: Matthew 1:1-17

In a male-dominated culture, Matthew named five women (including Mary) in Jesus' genealogy. The other four (Tamar, Rahab, Ruth and "the wife of Uriah" - i.e. Bathsheba) had all, like Mary, faced obstacles, even scandals, in their lives. Yet God had worked with each of them to advance God's redeeming mission in the world. What kinds of people do we ignore or undervalue in our culture? Does God still work through people like that?

Wednesday: Matthew 1:22-25

Jesus would later tell his disciples, "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father" (John 14:9). In what ways have you chosen to make the person of Jesus central to your understanding of what God is like? Has that helped you to set aside some of the negative, frightening images of God that limit too many people's willingness to relate to God? If so, how has that worked?

Thursday: Luke 2:41-51, Matthew 13:54-57

The scriptures mention Jesus' mother and siblings, but not his father. Most scholars believe Joseph died sometime before Jesus' public ministry began. (The gospels simply don't say.) Joseph apparently had a 12-to-30-year window to help protect and shape Jesus' growth. What opportunities do you have to serve, bless or shape people and events? Are you ever tempted to think those opportunities will last forever?

Friday: Luke 2:1-7

Jesus' birth took place in an animal shelter because the other options were too crowded for Mary to be able to give birth in them. Year-round, and particularly at holiday seasons like Christmas, many of us live very crowded lives. What role is Jesus playing in your Christmas celebration this year? How are you making room in your heart, and in your life, for him?

MOVING FORWARD

In scripture, there are seven stories of Joseph experiencing sorrow, and a corresponding joy. Like Joseph, we have joy that follows the sorrow in our lives, but too often we may not see it. One lesson we learn from Joseph's story is to have faith that joy will follow your sorrow. When seasons of sorrow come, ask yourself "what joy is on the backside of this sorrow?"

Answers to the sermon notes: IA) unanswered, B) invest, C) seven. IIIA) joy, B) perspective, IIIC) sorrow.

^{*}B. Witherington III, article "Birth of Jesus" in Joel B. Green and Scot McKnight, ed. *The Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1992, p. 63