

Advent Week 3, Unconquerable Joy

Luke 1:26-29, 39-41; John 3:25-29

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12/19/21

I. The Angel comes to Mary. Luke 1:26-29

_____ is not a thing that we do when it is convenient or when everything is going well. We are called to “Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, Rejoice.” **Philippians 4:4**

“When the supernatural touches the natural, it always creates fear.”
(McGee)

- Joy is not circumstantial; it is a _____.

II. Mary visits Elizabeth. Luke 1:39-41

Even as an unborn baby, he (John) understood who Jesus was and _____ to his coming with Joy.

“Such comfort there is in the presence of Christ as it made John to spring.”
(Trapp)

III. John’s Joy fulfilled. John 3:25-26

- a. John the Baptist’s entire existence was to prepare the way for Christ. This is a task that he _____ completely.

“Incredibly, they also missed the purpose of John’s ministry, which was to point the nation to the _____.” (MacArthur)

- b. Success in ministry is being _____ servants and allowing the Lord to receive the glory.
- c. Our joy should be in what Christ is doing in and around us, not in what we are doing or what we _____ on our own. Everything we do should point to Christ.

IV. Practical Application.

1. Be like _____: Rejoicing in the work of Christ.
2. Don’t be like Martha: Too stressed to have Joy.
3. Be like _____. **Luke 1:46-47**

Small Group Discussion

Looking back at your notes from this week’s sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

1. Discuss the difference between joy and happiness. *What things bring you happiness? What things bring you joy?*
Galatians 5:22
2. Mary was told to rejoice at this news. *Do we rejoice always? Is rejoicing a natural response for us or does it take work or reminders?*
Matthew 2:10, Matthew 5:12, Philippians 4:4
3. One of the points in the message was that joy is not circumstantial, it is a choice. *How do we make sure that Joy is a natural response to circumstances?*
4. When John the Baptist first encounters the presence of Jesus, he leapt with joy in his mother’s womb. *How do we respond to the presence of Christ in our lives? Do we often recognize the presence of Christ in our lives?*
Luke 1:41
5. Discuss the difference between the attitude of Martha and Mary in **Luke 10:38-42**. *Who do you relate to more, Martha or Mary? Why?*
6. Read **John 25-29**. *What does John mean that his joy is fulfilled? Do we feel this way when we see Jesus at work? How can our joy be fulfilled?*
7. Discuss the practical application of this sermon.