

MONDAY 1.27.25- Luke 15:4-7

We don't know an awful lot about heaven! This we do know, though. It is a place of unimagined happiness and eternal joy!

There is much that we learn of our Lord's love in these two parables - the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin! It is an active love, a self-sacrificing love, a deep and mighty love! But I am stunned, to be honest, that with the unspeakable happiness, continual praise and overwhelming joy in heaven, that joy is somehow **increased** when the Savior brings in a sinner saved by His grace! This theme is repeated, lest we miss it, in the parable of the lost coin where our Lord tells us that "there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents!" Oh, Christian! Let this sink in! Our Savior came to save sinners and there is **rejoicing** over YOU!

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 1.28.25 - Philippians 4:4

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

Are you, or someone you love, in a place where there seems to be no joy in the Lord? It is hard to see past the pain? Are you asking "WHY?" and perhaps feeling angry with God? If that is the case, God understands, but He wants you to know that He is there. He has complete control over the situation and wants to give you the strength to get through whatever you are facing. Most of all, He wants you to know and cling to the fact that He loves you more than you can possibly imagine. As you cling to these promises you may not feel joy in the moment, but they will give you a reason to rejoice in God despite the moment. God is standing before you with His arms open wide. Run to Him and allow Him to embrace you with His love today.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY 1.29.25 - John 17:1-5

"After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: 'Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.'"

Jesus brought the Father glory by completing the work He was sent to do on the cross (verse 4). How did Christ's work on the cross glorify God? The way to glorify God is to obey Him. Children bring honor to their parents when they obey them. Citizens bring honor to their country when they obey it. Students bring honor to their teacher when they obey what they've been taught. Jesus brought honor to God by His perfect obedience to Him. Additionally, Jesus prayed that the Father would glorify Him. The cross was not the end. There was the resurrection to follow. This was the vindication of Jesus. The glory of the resurrection obliterated the shame of the cross.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 1.30.25-Habakkuk 2:14

Habakkuk is crying about the lack of seeing the Lord work. He sees trouble coming and is praying for help, but sees only hurt is. Have we experienced times like that? Times when there is nothing good happening and our culture is seemingly disappearing? Has the emotion of dread come over you, that whatever you plan to do is for naught? After Habakkuk complains, God responds, and says wait and see what I will do. I am planning something that you have never seen and would not believe even if I told you. Can we claim a promise like that for ourselves?

Can we believe that God has so filtered our days, that whatever comes to us is truly either formed by Him or permitted by Him? If that be so, then is not what comes the best for us, and we should give Him glory for bringing about His will for us.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY 1.31.25 - Psalm 24:7-10

⁷ Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.
⁸ Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.
⁹ Lift up your heads, you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.
¹⁰ Who is he, this King of glory? The Lord Almighty— he is the King of glory.

Twenty years earlier the Philistines had captured the ark of the Covenant and killed many Israelites. 1 Samuel 4:22 records the comment, "The Glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God has been captured."

Most believe Psalm 24 is King David's celebration of the ark's return which symbolized the return of God's presence to Israel. David personifies the gates as he tells them to "lift up your heads." The gates represent the people of Jerusalem, and he wants them to lift their heads in celebration of the King of Glory's arrival. The gates must be lifted even higher to allow the Glory of God to enter.

For me, all of this becomes a reminder that each day as "I lift my head" from my pillow, to open my heart and mind to the renewing of the Spirit of God and allow the King of Glory to come in and guide me through my day.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

E2 GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY MORNINGS - 9:40am

- Kids** CHILDREN'S CHURCH (Ages 4 – 4th Grade)
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
NURSERY (through Age 3) *9:40AM ONLY
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
- Youth** E2 CLASS (5th – 12th Grade)
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
- Adults** **WINTER QUARTER** - began December 1st
- LOCATION: B8-10 - Gene Steinruck - began Dec.1st.
EXPLORE THE BIBLE - Exodus and Leviticus
remind us that imperfect people can depend on a perfect God to lead them through whatever wilderness they face.
- LOCATION: B11 - Shawn Devlin - began Jan. 19th
THE HEART OF WORSHIP - Learn how Scripture tells us God is the One we are to worship, and it shows us the ways we are to engage in worship, so we are drawn into a deeper walk with Him.

SUNDAY EVENINGS - 6:00pm

- Kids** MESSIAH KIDS (Kindergarten – 4th Grade)
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
- Youth** YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade)
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
- Adults** LOCATION: Worship Center

WINTER E2 SMALL GROUPS

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS: Join us for 11 weeks of food, fellowship, and Bible Study! Titled End Times & Spiritual Warfare. Began January 15th; meal at 6:00pm and Study begins at 7:00pm.

REVELATION - WOMENS STUDY: Join us for a 10-week Women's Bible Study following Jen Wilkin's book, "Revelation: Eternal King, Everlasting Kingdom". In this study you will become confident, assured, and inspired by the teachings in Revelation. Thursday Mornings at 9:00am in room B8-B10 Starting February 20th.

TO SIGN UP OR REQUEST MORE INFORMATION FOR ANY OF THESE GROUPS OR CLASSES, USE THE CONNECTION CARD IN THE BULLETIN. THANK YOU.

John 16:16-33 From Sorrow To Joy

There's an old Chinese proverb which states: "If you wish to be happy for one hour, get intoxicated. If you wish to be happy for three days, get married. If you wish to be happy for eight days, kill your pig and eat it. If you wish to be happy forever, learn to fish."

That brings up an age-old question: "Where do we find lasting happiness? Where do we find real joy—not just for the moment, but a joy that lasts forever even through the hard times?"

Jesus told His disciples that He was leaving them. Because of this, the disciples were "filled with grief" (John 16:6), but Jesus reveals to them—and us—where to find true joy. Find joy in ...

1. The _____ (16:16-22)

Jesus was about to die on a cross, and that would bring His followers great sorrow. However, Jesus would soon rise again, and that would bring them a joy nothing could ever take away.

You will encounter days of sorrow, but you can find true joy during them. Jesus assures, "Because I live, you will live also."

2. P _____ (16:23-26)


Find joy in talking to God. Find joy in asking Him for what you need.

You possess a wonderful relationship with God as a believer in Jesus Christ. You have direct access to your Heavenly Father.

3. G _____ (16:27-33)

God allows you to encounter the storms of life. Those storms are for your good—for your spiritual growth.

"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." ~ Jesus

 Edifying and Equipping Every Day

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



January 27 – January 31

INTRODUCTION:

Part of our purpose and strategy as a church is to Edify and Equip (E2) every believer. We desire to see every person take their next step with God, both individually as well as with families and small groups (E2 Communities). This devotional is to aid us in just that. We invite you to join us in daily devotion.

OVERVIEW:

Monday's and Tuesday's readings will be a follow up on Sunday's message from January 26th, "From Sorrow To Joy", with Pastor Doug Lyon. Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help prepare us for the message on February 2nd, "Jesus Prays for Himself", with Pastor Doug Lyon.

KEY/MEMORY VERSE:

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.
John 15:12