

Introduction

Series

Highlights

I. The Joy of the Harvest

1. Luke 15: - parables taken together - all say the same thing
 - the prodigal - the older brother resents it
 - the lost sheep
 - the lost coin
 - the lost son
2. Here they are
 - lost sheep (6)
 - lost coin (9)
 - lost son (22-24)
3. Thanksgiving
 - lost, then found
 - idea of “lost” things
 - Thanksgiving - all about blessings - all about joys
4. A harvest festival
 - The harvest God is most concerned about is not wheat - better- it’s people
 - “The fields are white unto harvest”
 - We were lost and Jesus came looking for us

II. The “Good News” is Joy

1. “Gospel” means good news
 - lose joy then lost the idea
2. The angels announced “joy to the world” - Luke 2
3. The Age of Grace
 - big picture
 - Old Testament law
 - New Testament - time of grace
 - coming judgment - second coming and tribulation/ trials
 - Grace is simply - God will forgive
 - “Grace” period
4. Luke 4 - the Spirit has anointed me
 - The year of Jubilee
 - After 49 years - 7x7
 - 50th year - debts forgiven - land restored
 - Jesus was saying that He’d come to announce a grace period
5. The fruit of the Spirit is Joy - Gal. 5:22-23
 - character of our lives ought be joy

Segue

Harvest of Joy - as we go to harvest

The “Good News” is joy

III. Daily Joy

1. The Joy of Status

- taught slaves, servants, now sons
- slaves of Satan
- servants - chosen to be (under the law)
- sons - Spirit, cries Abba/ Father
- See self as “son”

2. !!). Who am I?

- Psychological question
- Relates to how we see ourselves
- Self-esteem
- Next week begin a new series

3. Relationship is not our achievement - it's His gift

4. Christianity has something...

- Material things do not
- Other philosophies do not
- Other faiths do not
- Philosophy - people are valuable (all people) - rich/ poor - important - non-important
- Other faiths
 - work their way up
 - Christianity - Jesus climbs down to lift us up
 - prove worthy of love
 - loved us first before we could prove ourselves
 - lost in a crowd - eye is on the sparrow

Chuck Swindoll said “doctors save lives, Christianity teaches that lives are worth saving”

5. See the True End of Life

- what is life all about
- why am I here?
- why created?
- Created for fellowship with God - relationship
 - close, intimate relationship
- So when God loses a son/ daughter - He goes looking for them

6. A spring from within

- joy inside drives actions outside
- don't serve out of law (have to)
- serve out of want to
- Example - Father's Day
 - just the two of us
 - here didn't want to but it's Father's Day
- Some of us serve - Clovis Chappell - “If I Were Young Again”
 - always gloomy
 - always critical

-always taking

A joy springing from within

7. We have a reason to rejoice

First, pardoned by God - given, not achieved

Second - introduced to the Almighty - adopted into His family

-growth - brings joy -

Third - a forever future ahead of us

“Joyful hearts make strong hands” - from JE Lambdon - “Be Strong in the Lord”

Heart and hand connection

Whatever your hand finds to do - do it with all your might

“Give Yourself Away” David Dunn

-great idea

-can't do that if your joy is not full

Ps. 126:6 - “Go out... tears - come in with joy

Winnie - assisted living

-visitation

-what are you doing here

-ironing - hurt Winnie's feelings, and she began to cry -

“You're the first person who ever shed a tear for me”