

Sunday Sermon Questions • 12/15/2024

Advent Week 2 • Joy

Joy vs. Happiness

- The sermon highlights the difference between joy and happiness, with joy being rooted in God's promises and happiness being tied to circumstances. How have you experienced this difference in your own life? Can you share a time when you felt joy despite challenging circumstances?

Mary's Response to God's Plan

- Mary responded to the angel with faith, saying, "I am the Lord's servant." What can we learn from her reaction when facing unexpected or challenging situations in our lives? How does her example encourage you in trusting God's plan?

God's Promises and Joy

- Elizabeth proclaimed Mary as "blessed" because she believed God's promises. How can believing in God's promises bring joy into your daily life? What specific promises of God bring you comfort and joy this season?

Herod vs. Mary and Joseph

- The sermon contrasts Herod's pursuit of earthly power and happiness with Mary and Joseph's faith and obedience. Are there areas in your life where you might prioritize temporary happiness over God's will? How can you shift your focus to align more with God's plans?

Joy in the Midst of Uncertainty

- Mary ran to Elizabeth for support during a time of uncertainty, and through their encounter, Mary found reassurance and joy. Who or what in your life helps you find joy and reassurance in difficult times? How can you be a source of encouragement and joy for others?

The Role of the Holy Spirit in Joy

- The sermon emphasizes that joy is produced by the Holy Spirit and cultivated through intimacy with God. How can you intentionally create space in your life to deepen your relationship with God and experience this Spirit-filled joy?

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Prayer Prompt: Finding Joy in God's Promises

Spend a few moments reflecting on the promises of God that bring you hope and joy. Ask God to help you trust in His plans, even when life feels uncertain or overwhelming. Pray for a heart like Mary's—full of faith and surrender—and for the Holy Spirit to fill you with a lasting joy that transcends circumstances. Finally, thank God for the gift of Jesus, the source of true joy this Christmas season.

Prayer: A Prayer for Joy in Uncertainty

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the gift of joy that is found in You alone. In this season of Advent, we are reminded of Mary's faith and surrender as she embraced Your plan for her life. Help us to trust You with the same confidence, even when we face uncertainty, fear, or challenges.

Fill our hearts with the joy that comes from knowing Your promises are true, unchanging, and eternal. Holy Spirit, guide us to find contentment and hope, not in the fleeting things of this world, but in the everlasting gift of Jesus Christ. May we carry this joy with us and share it with others as a reflection of Your love.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.