

# Joys of Jesus

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*[Luke 10:21] At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.*

Last week we studied about 'Jesus, the Man of sorrows.' Today, let us look into the joys that our Lord Jesus had and the joys of His followers. And may we be partakers of the same joys. Sorrows and pains come to Christians, but so do joys unspeakable.

The birth of baby Jesus brought great joy to the world. On the day of His birth, an angel came to Bethlehem and spoke of the news of great joy to the shepherds who were tending flocks of sheep nearby.

*[Luke 2:10-11] But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.*

Even today when the gospel of Jesus Christ is preached, it brings a message of great joy, because the gospel message can bring about a marvelous change in a person who accepts the gospel of being delivered from a destiny of sin and death to true salvation for life eternal and of becoming a child of God.

Great joy came to the virgin Mary who received the news of the coming conception of baby Jesus in her body. The angel Gabriel told her of the joy that will be in her and Mary sang of her joy in a song:

*[Luke 1: 46-48] And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed,*

Just as baby Jesus was conceived in the body of virgin Mary, the Spirit of Jesus Christ is born in the soul of a person who accepts the gospel of Christ so that the soul is born again in God's spiritual realm. Therefore, every born-again Christian can sing a song of joy as Mary did and of the blessings that come into his/her life.

Lord Jesus told His disciples that they ought to rejoice in knowing that their names have been written in the book of life in heaven through such miracles.

*[Luke 10:19-20] I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."*

The words of Jesus in Luke 10:21, quoted at the beginning of this message, were spoken when His disciples came back from their missionary task reporting of successes. Through their labor of preaching the gospel message, many people came to accept the truth of God. For this reason, Lord Jesus came to have great joy in His heart, which He expressed in prayer before the disciples.

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Here, Lord Jesus spoke of a fundamental truth in all evangelical work – the proud and dishonest will never understand or accept the gospel but only those with pure and sincere hearts like little babes. As this truth had been proven through the disciples' evangelical work, Lord Jesus rejoiced. True disciples of Jesus Christ today share the same joy of seeing honest and sincere souls being saved through simple gospel messages.

The disciples of Jesus had both fear and joy at the news of their Lord's resurrection. Their joy of Jesus' resurrection and commitment to the divine call of the mission were increased greatly during the forty days of the

Lord's teaching before His ascension to heaven. As a result, Christianity spread rapidly throughout the Roman Empire during the first century.

*[Acts 5:41-42] The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.*

Lord Jesus told His disciples to rejoice when they face persecutions and trials because their rewards are waiting for them in heaven. Before He came to the earth as a human, Lord Jesus witnessed in heaven that the faithful prophets of the Old Testament era came up to heaven and received their rewards after they had been persecuted and martyred on earth. So, He encouraged His disciples to rejoice at the coming sufferings and persecutions that they were to face in the Christian journeys.

*[Luke 6:23] Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.*

My sisters and brothers, we are living in a difficult time approaching the end times. If we follow along the currents of this world, we need not face sufferings and persecutions but will have no heavenly rewards. However, as we lift the banner of God's truth high and endeavor to live out the divine principles of Jesus Christ, we are bound to face up suffering and persecutions. Let us hold dear our love for Christ in us, live out His truths faithfully each day, hold onto the lively hope for our rewards in heaven, and rejoice in the Lord always.

*[Philippians 4:4] Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!*

Amen.

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