

For Joy with Roots  
*A Joy Jesus Knew was Worth the Cross*  
Hebrews 12:1–2  
January 19, 2014  
Sermon Outline

Notes:

I. Introduction

A. Children's Sermon: Joy with Roots

**Jeremiah 17:7–8**

<sup>7</sup> *“**Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord.**”* <sup>8</sup> He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its **roots** by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.”

B. Looking to Jesus

**Hebrews 12:1-2a**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, *let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,* <sup>2</sup> **looking to Jesus**, the founder and perfecter of our faith...

1. Rely Upon Jesus
2. Follow His Example

**Key Idea** (Cf. 2 Peter 1:3–4)

*We are called to consider & follow the life of Jesus while relying upon the power of Jesus.*

II. For the Joy... (with Roots)

**Hebrews 12:2**

<sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus ... who **for the joy** that was set before him...

A. What Joy?

1. Share in His Holiness

**Hebrews 12:10**

[God] disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.

## 2. The joy of sharing in God's love

### **John 17:1–3, 25–26**

“Father, the hour has come; *glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you,* <sup>2</sup> since you have given him authority over all flesh, to *give eternal life to all whom you have given him.* <sup>3</sup> **And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.** ...

<sup>25</sup> O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. <sup>26</sup> ***I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known,*** that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

## 3. Getting to the Bottom of Your Joy (John Piper)

“Do you feel more loved by God— or we could say, do you feel happier— because God makes much of you, or because God enables you to enjoy making much of him? I am not denying that God makes much of you, but I am forcing a ranking. I'm asking about the order at the bottom. When you get down to the bottom of your life, there is a ranking— either self is first, or God is first. I'm not denying that God makes much of us. It's a glorious thing to be enabled by the atoning blood of Jesus and the Holy Spirit to be freed from self and make much of God as your supreme joy and life, and it's a glorious thing to delight in being made much of by God. But everything hangs on their ordering, their ranking, their placement at the bottom or not. That's what I'm after in this question. Do you enjoy worshiping God, making much of God, because at the bottom, this God that you're worshiping is committed to making much of you? That's idolatry of the worst kind. **Or do you enjoy God's making much of you because it shows you the kind of God that He is?** (Bold Mine) His making much of us enables us and equips us and transforms us so that we can actually see him for who he is, and love him for who he is, and treasure him for who he is, and be satisfied in him for who he is. That's the bottom. <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> **John Piper.** An All-Consuming Passion for Jesus: Appeals to the Rising Generation (Kindle Locations 713-722). Desiring God.

## A. Endured the Cross (For the Joy)

### Hebrews 12:2

**for the joy** that was set before him *endured the cross*, despising the shame...

1. Suffering is real
2. Chief enemy is sin

### Hebrews 12:3–4

<sup>3</sup> Consider him who *endured from sinners such hostility against himself*, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. <sup>4</sup> In *your struggle against sin* you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

## B. Despising the Shame (For the Joy)

### Hebrews 12:2

**for the joy** that was set before him endured the cross, *despising the shame*...

1. The shame of betrayal
2. The shame of being falsely accused
3. The shame of the cross

## C. Joy Accomplished & Applied

### Hebrews 12:2

**for the joy** that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, **and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

### Hebrews 1:3

<sup>3</sup> He is the *radiance of the glory of God* and *the exact imprint of his nature*, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he *sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high*...

### Hebrews 8:1b–2

...we have such a high priest, one who is *seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven*,<sup>2</sup> a minister in the holy places, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man.

### Hebrews 10:12–13

<sup>12</sup> But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he *sat down at the right hand of God*, <sup>13</sup> waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet.

### Revelation 5:1–14

<sup>7</sup> And he went and took *the scroll* from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. <sup>8</sup> And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb... <sup>9</sup> And they sang a new song, saying, “*Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation*, <sup>10</sup> and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”

<sup>11</sup> Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, <sup>12</sup> saying with a loud voice, “*Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!*” <sup>13</sup> And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, “*To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!*” <sup>14</sup> And the four living creatures said, “*Amen!*” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

#### Key Idea

*Our ransom has been paid by the Lamb; let us join in the joy of our sweet communion with the triune God. This joy has roots.*