

I. Introduction: What brings you the greatest joy?II. The disciples' joy. v. 17-20

A. The seventy harvesters return with joy. v. 17 9:38-40,49

B. Jesus explains the significance of the ministry of the seventy – cosmic spiritual warfare. v. 18-19 Isa. 14:13-15

1. The purpose of Jesus' ministry is to defeat Satan's kingdom and to replace it with His righteous reign. v. 18 11:20 20:43 1:74 1 Jo. 3:8 Heb. 2:14f Gen. 3:15 Rev. 12:9 11:15 Jo. 12:31 Col. 2:15 1:13 John 12:31 14:30 16:11 Mark 3:27 Acts 26:18

2. The disciples' triumph over the forces of evil as an extension of Christ's victory. v. 19 Gen. 3:15 1 Cor. 15:54-57 10:9 1 Pe. 3:22 2 Co. 11:3 Rev. 20:2 12:15 Mark 16:18 Ps. 91:13 Acts 28:1-6

3. In what sense are they kept safe from serpents and scorpions? 11:12 Acts 28:5 Gen. 3:15 Ps. 41:14 2 Tim. 3:12 1 Pet. 2:21ff Mark 16:18

4. If Satan is cast down, how can still he be so active? 2 Co. 4:4 1 Pet. 5:8 Acts 4:10 1 Th. 2:18

C. Application:

1. We too are engaged in spiritual warfare on Jesus' behalf and with His authority against satanic forces. Eph. 6:12ff 2:2 Col. 1:13 Mark 3:27 Acts 26:18

2. We rejoice in our participation in Jesus' victory over Satan – despoiling Satan's kingdom one soul at a time. Mark 3:27 Rom. 8:31-39 16:20 2 Th. 3:3 1 Jo. 4:4

3. Success, even in spiritual matters, can be dangerous – we need to beware of falling into Satan's sin of pride. 1 Tim. 3:6 Mt. 7:21-23 John 17:12

D. The disciples have a greater cause for joy. v. 20

1. Jesus is not denying that their victory over demonic forces is cause for joy. v. 20a

2. But having their names recorded in heaven is more joyous.

3. What is the significance of having one's name recorded in heaven?

4. When was this book written and by whom? Ex. 32:32 Ps. 69:28 Isa. 4:3 Ezek. 13:9 Dan. 12:1 Phil. 4:3 Heb 12:23 Rev. 3:5 13:8 17:8 20:12,15 21:27

E. We have great cause for rejoicing.

1. We have many reasons for joy in God's gifts and blessings to us. Phil. 4:1 1 Th. 2:19

2. But the greatest reason for joy is that our names are recorded in heaven – we are saved and secure. v. 20b Jo. 10:27ff 1 Pe. 1:3-9 Ro. 8:31ff Phil. 3:20-21 He. 12:23

3. What are your priorities of joy?

4. Jesus brings joy to His people. 1:14 6:23 2:10 24:41,52

5. If you don't have assurance that your name is written in heaven, you have cause for sadness and alarm.

III. Jesus' joy. v. 21-24

A. It is unusual for Jesus to express such great joy. v. 21a

1. He is on His way to Jerusalem where He will be rejected and killed. 9:22,44

2. He was a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief. 19:41 Mt. 26:37 27:46 Isa. 53:3 John 11:35 Heb. 5:7

3. He is joyful in prayer to the Father, Lord of heaven and earth. Acts 17:24 John 5:18

4. He is joyful in the Holy Spirit. 2:27 3:16,22 4:1,14,18

5. He brings gospel joy to His people. 1:14,44,47 John 8:56 Acts 2:26,46 16:34
1 Pet. 1:6,8 Rev. 19:7 21:4 Jude 1:24 Ps. 16:8-11
- B. Jesus rejoices in how the Father's chooses to reveal Himself. v. 21b 1 Co. 1:18-31 2:14
Ps. 19:7 116:6
1. The Father has hidden the truth from those who are worldly wise and proud. Jo. 7:48
1 Co. 1:18-2:14 2 Co. 4:4 Rom. 1:22 Dan. 2:26ff
 2. Jesus rejoices that the Father makes Himself known to the lowly and the humble – us.
18:17 Js. 2:5 1 Co. 1:18-31
 3. This is His sovereign (electing) choice. John 6:37,44 Mt. 13:16-17 Rom. 9:14-18
- C. God the Father is well-pleased to reveal Himself to us through the Son. v. 21-22 2:14
John 3:35 14:6
1. The Father has given all authority to the Son. 22:69 John 13:3 17:2 Mt. 28:18
 2. The Son makes the Father known to those whom He will. John 1:14,18 14:9 6:65,37,44
 3. There is no way to know God the Father except through the Son. John 6:65 14:6
 4. Through Jesus, we too can call God "Father". 11:2,13 12:32
 5. The Father rejoices in the work of the Son. 3:22 9:35
 6. The Father and the Son rejoice over us. Isa. 62:5 65:19 Jer. 32:41 Dt. 30:9 Mt. 25:21
- D. Jesus' disciples are exceptionally blessed. v. 23-24
1. God has blessed them with spiritual perception. v. 23b 1 Co. 2:14 Jo. 6:44 Mt. 11:25f
 2. This is in contrast to those who don't see and hear. Mark 8:18 2 Co. 4:4 Rev. 3:17
Isa. 6:9-10 Acts 28:26ff
 3. They are seeing what the great people of God from the past had longed to see. v. 24
8:10 9:32-33 24:25-27 1 Pe. 1:10-12 Eph. 3:4-6 John 8:56 Acts 2:26 Heb. 11:13
- E. Application.
1. We should rejoice most in what gives Jesus the greatest joy. 15:7,10,5,23 24:52
Phil. 4:4 3:1 1 Thess. 5:16
 2. We should humbly give God all of the glory for our salvation. 18:9ff 1 Co. 4:6 1:26ff
 3. We should not be surprised when those who regard themselves as worldly-wise and
powerful are completely blind to spiritual truth.
 4. We should express our joy as Jesus did – in praise to our Triune God.
 5. What can you do if you are not joyful? Phil. 4:4-10 Hab. 3:16-19
 6. There is no true and lasting joy outside of our relationship with the Triune God.

IV. Concluding applications: Jesus brings joy to the world. Jude 24-25

Discussion questions

1. What makes you happy (or joyful)?
Is there an important difference between happiness and joy?
2. Why were the harvesters joyful?
Were they wrong to rejoice in their spiritual victories?
3. What was the significance of the ministry of the harvesters?
4. How do we participate in the same ministry of spiritual warfare?
5. What does Jesus say should bring them greater joy than their victories over demonic forces?
Why is this a greater cause for joy?
6. What brings Jesus great joy?
7. When is it proper for us to rejoice?
8. How can we cultivate joy in what matters the most?