

Session 10: Luke 10:17-22 "The Joy of Jesus"

I. OVERVIEW OF LUKE 10

- a. Luke 10: 1-12: Seventy Disciples are Sent Out
- b. Luke 10:13-16: Woe to the Cities Who Reject Those Sent Out
- c. Luke 10:17-20: The Seventy Return with Joy
- d. Luke 10:21-24: Jesus Rejoices in the Spirit
- e. Luke 10:25-37: The Parable of the Good Samaritan
- f. Luke 10:38-42: Mary and Martha Worship and Serve

II. THE SEVENTY DISCIPLES RETURN WITH NEWS OF TEMPORAL JOY (LUKE 10:17)

"Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." (Luke 10:17)

- a. What must the journey have been like to be one of these appointed ones who were sent out?
 - i. Jesus didn't just have twelve disciples. This is indicated in Luke 6:12-16 when He called all the disciples together and then picked twelve to be the apostles. These twelve apostles were appointed, then anointed in Luke 9 with power and sent out with authority to preach and heal the multitudes. I am imagining the hearts of those who were disciples...but not picked to be apostles.
 - ii. The final passage of Luke 9 talks about "the cost of discipleship" not "the cost of apostleship." I can't help but think that Jesus saw all these men that chose to follow Him as disciples EVEN WHEN they were not chosen to be given the mantle of apostleship. It was these ones that had faced the idea of being chosen by Jesus, but not chosen to be apostles that He appointed and anointed with power to be sent out as forerunners and messengers in every city...to go before Him as laborers of the harvest.
- b. There was an excitement that the disciples came back with that was at least partially found in the surprise of what they were able to do. It was almost a child-like excitement that comes from doing something that you didn't think you were going to be able to do...the excitement of the courageous ones who overcome fear. Their excitement was full of wonder and zeal over what Jesus had allowed them to do. Oh...the child-like joy of seeing a move of the Lord and being part of it! And oh...the joy that the Lord has in seeing His children have wonder and awe.

"Then a dispute arose among them as to which of them would be greatest. ⁴⁷ And Jesus, perceiving the thought of their heart, took a little child and set him by Him, ⁴⁸ and said to them, "Whoever receives this little child in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me receives Him who sent Me. For he who is least among you all will be great." (Luke 9:46-48)

"At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me." (Matthew 18:1-5 NKJV)

III. JESUS CALLS THE DISCIPLES TO HAVE ETERNAL JOY (LUKE 10:18-20)

And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven. (Luke 10:18-20)

- iv. The last days will bring about people who walk in a form of godliness but actively deny its power and does not recognize the One who is the King of all.

¹ But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ² For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴ traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! (2 Timothy 3:1-5)

- g. Temporal joy is not an abiding joy!! In other words, temporary just does not remain! For we can find joy that the Lord has brought healing and tomorrow cancer may return. What happens on the day you are sent to a town and they reject you? What happens on the day you pray and someone is not healed? What happens the day you ask in faith for something that does not come to pass? A man of courageous faith is joyful in success and failure? The joy of the one whose faith is in Jesus endures and bears the strain of trial, difficulty, pain and the everything that happens in the waiting between the promises spoken and the promises coming to pass.

"In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls." (1 Peter 1:6-9 NKJV)

TEMPORAL JOY IS BROUGHT FORTH THROUGH A TESTIMONY OF THAT WHICH IS SEEN TODAY...ETERNAL JOY IS BROUGHT FORTH FROM A TESTIMONY OF FAITH AND HOPE THAT WILL ONE DAY BE SEEN WHEN JESUS RETURNS!

- h. Eternal joy is presently sustained in faith with the truth that God has chosen us...God has accepted us...God has welcomed us into the Beloved...and God has written our names in the Book of Life. THIS is the greater joy!

- i. Names written in the book of life (Revelation 13:8, Revelation 3:5, Revelation 17:8, Revelation 20:12, 15, Revelation 21:27, Philippians 4:3, Psalm 69:28, Daniel 12:1, Exodus 32:31-33)

Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:11-15)

- ii. The book of life speaks to the end of the age and the glory of the ones who stood in faith and praise in the midst of trial and will dwell with Him forever

"Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife." And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal." (Revelation 21:9-11 NKJV)

"But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life." (Revelation 21:22-27 NKJV)

- e. The joy of Jesus was reflected in His humility to share the responsibility and the honor of glorifying and making known His Father. Jesus had joy in others impact...and what others got to do. His joy was the sincere agreement with the excellent things that God did in others. He had joy in the Beloved!! He had joy in the ones who were created to share the glory that He alone had with the Father from eternity past before all of creation! He approved of the excellent things that his Father was doing in His created ones.

"And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God." (Philippians 1:9-11 NKJV)

- i. Jesus was not like Satan, the one that He had seen fall. Satan's desire is to accuse the children of God and have that which God had given us taken away. The desires of Satan are filled with a spirit of selfishness and internal violence through covetousness. Internal violence is an aggressive desire of the heart that doesn't just want to have what someone else has, but rather the desire to violently take what belongs to someone else with the desire that THEY would lack. This is the evil of covetousness!

SATAN WANTS TO TAKE AWAY THAT WHICH NEVER BELONGED TO HIM AND JESUS WANTS TO SHARE ALL THINGS WITH A PEOPLE THAT WERE NEVER DESERVING TO RECEIVE IT ALL!

- ii. Jesus chooses us because the FATHER has chosen us. The Father chose the twelve and the the Father chose the seventy. He did not choose the wise...He chose the hungry and the needy. He is not like us! For we so often despise the hungry around us. Would we choose them? For the wise wouldn't have time to go because they are too busy with their own agendas. In their own wisdom they would have added or taken away from the words of Jesus...thinking they know better. Men who are wise in their own mind talk so that only the wise understand them. It is beneath them to teach children...the immature or the illiterate. Jesus did not despise the child like faith and the child like joy of the disciples...because that is EXACTLY who the Father chose to follow Him.
- iii. He saw the truth that the kingdom belongs to and is brought forth in men that are dependent, humble and know their need for God.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 5:3 NKJV)

- iv. Not only did He see the Father's wisdom but He agreed with it and chose to reveal it to these men as well.

- f. The joy of Jesus was reflected in the humility He had to reveal the Father and give Him all of the glory.

- i. The disciples came back with and rejoiced giving thanks to Jesus for His name. The first thing He then did was give all glory to the Father. ALL thanksgiving to the Son...was handed right over to the Father.

²⁴ Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. ²⁵ For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. ²⁶ The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. ²⁷ For "He has put all things under His feet." But when He says "all things are put under Him," it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. ²⁸ Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all. (1 Corinthians 15:24-28)

- ii. There is joy in humility even when it doesn't always feel like it. Jesus will not complain on the day of His return that HE is the One who should be on the throne instead of the Father. He is not like us. He will not put an end to all rule and authority, then selfishly try and say that He is deserving of the throne. He knows that there is One seated on the throne and He will gladly take His place at the right hand of the Father after His work is complete. His labor is all for His Father...and in this He rejoices.