

REAL JOY IN A PAINFUL WORLD

Luke 2:8-14 Revelation 21:4

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The third Sunday of Advent is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, plus the joy revealed in:

Revelation 21:4 *He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."*



Luke 2:8-14 *And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"*

Biblical Joy: *Joy is a deep inner gladness regardless of circumstances going on around you. (Repeat)*

A Savior: why a savior? Because most often we are our own worst enemies.

Add to this the fact that more than 20,000 children die each day of STARVATION AND MALNUTRITION needlessly.

HUMAN SEX TRAFFICKING There's over 40 million victims of the human tracking globally today: 25% are children

No wonder that Most people live by the anacronym:

S A D

Today, on this third Sunday of Advent, Jesus wants you and me to live by a different anacronym.

J O Y

ON THE DAY THE BABY, JESUS, WAS BORN, THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE CELEBRATED.

Clarify the difference between Joy and Happiness. Happiness comes from the root word happenstance. Happenstance is defined this way: *anything that happen suddenly or by chance without an apparent cause; "winning that new car was a happy accident"; "the pregnancy was a stroke of luck"; "it was due to an accident or fortuity"*

FIRST LETTER IN JOY IS "J" JESUS!

Luke 24:²⁵ And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Christ (Messiah) should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

Jesus must become the only focus of your life:

Mark 12:30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'

What does that really look like?

**It means that you want to love and honor Jesus with Your words, Your thoughts, Your actions
Your attitudes, Your body.**

NEXT LETTER IN JOY IS THE “O” - “O” STAND FOR OTHERS.

Mark 12:31³¹ The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

PEOPLE ARE THE PRACTICAL BATTLEGROUND TO LOVING JESUS!

THE “Y” IN JOY IS TO HAVE A PROPER FOCUS ON YOURSELF

Colossians 3:12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

First and foremost know who you are in Jesus Christ: *YOU ARE GOD'S CHOSEN PEOPLE WHO ARE HOLY AND DEARLY LOVED.*"

The Bible tells you and me to put on each day, each moment: Compassion, Kindness, Humility, Gentleness, Patience. Because you are God's chosen people you now have the power to change your attitude, behavior, and responses to others.

“YOU” in JOY means that you are:

- Cleansed and healed by the blood of Jesus.
- You are now his DNA brothers and sisters.
- You are to reflect Jesus' reality to everyone.
- You have a purpose beyond getting a good education and making money.
- You exist to be Jesus' voice, will and actions in this broken world.
- You are called to be his disciple forever.
- You are designed to make disciples out of others.

This can all be yours and is meant to be yours when you make Jesus the focus of your life, be Jesus to Others, and understand and live out your purpose as Jesus' disciples.

Therefore we must live now with the ultimate goal is found in **Revelation 21:4**

“He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

**OUR CHOICE TODAY IS TO EITHER BE PART OF THE PROBLEM
OR PART OF THE SOLUTION.**

- Jesus, from this moment on, you will be the only real focus of my life.
- Jesus, I want to love others just like you love me.
- Jesus, help me to know my purpose in you and make disciples out of as many as possible.
- Jesus, may your name and reality shine through me and may my joy in you infect and change the lives of others.

