



29 Sep – 5 Oct, 2019

Jesus Christ, our Joy, part 2

**‘I say to you that likewise there will be more Joy in Heaven
over one sinner who repents
than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance’**

Luke 15:7

Joy in Heaven and on earth are inseparable (Lk 15:1-10)

- † In the parable of the lost sheep, Christ is showing us how He takes care of poor wandering sinners**
 - He continues His care of the sheep that did not go astray by keeping them safe in the wilderness**
 - Though He has a considerable flock, yet He will not lose even one, but He goes after it, until He finds it**
 - He lays it on his shoulders, and, with affection and tenderness brings it to the fold**
 - The Lord and Heaven rejoice over every repenting sinner**
 - He calls it His, though a wandering sheep. Christ calls each sinner His and He Himself finds him**
- † The coin is comparatively of small value, reflecting that God will not lose sinful men to perish**
 - The woman uses various means to find it representing the various methods God makes use of to bring lost souls Home**
 - Joy spreads and calls others to celebrate with it**
 - Salvation of humankind is joy in the presence of the angels; they announced it to the shepherds by telling them *‘I bring you good tidings of great Joy which will be to all people’* Lk 2:10b**
- † The creation rejoices with its Creator**
 - *‘Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
And let them say among the nations, ‘The Lord reigns.’
Let the sea roar, and all its fullness;
Let the field rejoice, and all that is in it.
Then the trees of the woods shall rejoice before the Lord,
For He is coming to judge the earth’* 1 Chr 16:31-33**

The main characteristics of Joy

- † No one can rob us of the Joy and no one can take the love of Jesus from us (*Rom 8:31-38; Phil 1:1-11*)
 - *'Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your Joy no one will take from you' Jn 16:22*
 - It is through the power of the Holy Spirit that we experience the Joy of salvation and are comforted even in the middle of the worst trials remembering always that God has a great plan for us (*Jer 29:11; Rom 8:28; 15:13*)
- † Joy is confident; its source is Christ and we know that Christ's work is perfect (*Jn 15:11*)
- † Joy is an outcome of our personal relationship with Christ. *'Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your Joy may be full' Jn 16:24*

Joy is an increasing Joy having the shape of the Cross

- † We grow in Joy just as we grow in Love
- † The Joy in us is spread, reaching others

C S Lewis on Joy

- † Joy must be sharply distinguished both from happiness and pleasure
- † Joy (in my sense) has indeed one characteristic, and one only, in common with them; the fact that anyone who has experienced it will want it again
- † ... I doubt whether anyone who has tasted it would ever, if both were in his power, exchange it for all the pleasures in the world
- † But then Joy is never in our power and pleasure often is
- † *'for the Kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and Peace and Joy in the Holy Spirit' Rom 14:17*

The greatest Joy

'I have no greater Joy than to hear that my children walk in Truth' 3 Jn 4

We are called to rejoice always

'The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with Joy' Ps 126:3

Bibliography

1. Lewis, C. S. *Surprised by Joy: The Shape of My Early Life*. New York: Harcourt, Brace. 1955

2. Unless otherwise noted, all Biblical passages referenced are from the New King James Version

Legend

 Refers to mandatory readings

Verse to memorize

'Likewise, I say to you, there is Joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents' Luke 15:10

In my Prayer and Faith Autobiography Book

God acts

✝ Christ did all so that my Joy will be complete

My reaction

✝ How am I maintaining my Joy in all circumstances?

✝ Is my Joy being spread to others?

During the coming week, let us pray expectantly

1. seeking the Lord's will to be done in Lebanon
2. for CrossTalk to find a locale
3. for David, Gisele, Habib and Karim
4. to become more of saints and less of sinners
5. to seek the Lord in every word I say, every act I do and every thought I think
6. to help in building His Kingdom by building His Church on earth
7. to deny ourselves, carry our cross and follow Him
8. to thank Him for creating us and each one around us, on His image and likeness, and choosing us to reveal His splendor
9. to all the sick
10. to all those in prison
11. to the unity of the Christians
12. to one another to be honest and not lack integrity
13. to put all that we have in the Lord's hands trusting His management
14. to all the Christians who are being persecuted, and to those who are persecuting them
15. to all families, that the Lord unites the parents together in His Name and stops all fights
16. to the situation in Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Iraq and the whole region

During this coming week, we will lift the Roman Catholic Church in prayer

قانون الايمان
نؤمن بالله واحد
آب ضابط الكل
خالق السماء والارض
كل ما يرى وما لا يرى
وبرب واحد يسوع المسيح ابن الله الوحيد
المولود من الاب قبل كل الدهور
إله من إله، نور من نور، إله حق من إله حق
مولود غير مخلوق
مساو للاب في الجوهر
الذي به كان كل شيء
الذي من أجلنا نحن البشر، ومن أجل خلاصنا
نزل من السماء
وتجسد من الروح القدس، ومن مريم العذراء
وصار إنساناً
وصليباً عنا على عهد بيلاطس البنطي
تألم ومات وقبر وقام في اليوم الثالث
كما جاء في الكتب
وصعد إلى السماء
وجلس عن يمين الله الآب
أيضاً يأتي بمجد عظيم
ليدين الأحياء والأموات
الذي لا فناء لملكه
وبالروح القدس، الرب المحيي
المنبثق من الآب والإبن
الذي هو مع الآب والإبن
يُسجد له ويُمجد الناطق بالأنبياء والرسل
وبكنيسة واحدة، جامعة، مقدسة، رسولية
ونعترف بعمودية واحدة لمغفرة الخطايا
ونترجى قيامة الموتى والحياة في الدهر الآتي
أمين

الصلاة الربانية
أبانا الذي في السموات
ليتقدس اسمك
ليأت ملكوتك
ليكن مشيئتك
كما في السماء
كذلك على الأرض
أعطنا خبرنا كفاف يومنا
واغفر لنا ذنوبنا وخطايانا
كما نحن نغفر
لمن أخطأ وأساء إلينا
ولا تُدخلنا في التجارب
لكن نجنا من الشرير
أمين