

JOY ENTERED OUR WORLD

December 24, 2017 Luke 2:10 by Bob Branch
Christmas Eve 2017

BIG IDEA: When Jesus entered our world, joy came with him. And, whoever trusts him and receives him has the capacity for this joy inside them all the time.

“my spirit *rejoices* in God my Savior” **Luke 1:47**

“As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.” **Luke 1:44**

“I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people,” **Luke 2:10**

When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.” **Matt. 2:10**

1. Why CAN we have joy in this joyless world?

- God showed up. He came for us.
- Our sins can be and have been forgiven.
- The coming King has come to live in us now by his Spirit.
- He’s given us his words, & they’ve found their place in us.
- Because we are loved.
- Because God is no longer out there somewhere. He came. He’s here. He’s near. He saves.

***God came after us.* (Luke 15)**

People on earth are incredibly valuable to God, and at the same time, incredibly lost.

2. We may NOT have joy because:

- We are *afraid*, anxious or worried

- We let our pain/failure/sin/shame/past/guilt *define* us.
- We are caught on the treadmill of *pleasing people*.
- We are constantly *comparing* ourselves.
- We are *nursing a grudge*.
- We’ve surrounded ourselves with too many *Eeyores*.
- We don’t to make the *changes* that following Jesus requires.
- We do not believe his *grace is enough*.
- We *do not have Jesus* in our lives.
- We may have Jesus, but fail to *reframe*...

Anxiety is a major joy-stealer.

“Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.” **1 Peter 5:7** (Matthew 11:28–30)

3. We can access this joy by:

Reframing every situation in our lives through the lens that God *loves* me, is *for* me, *with* me, *near* me, and *in* me. Because of this, I have the resources to meet each challenge.

¹**SLOW DOWN**. (Psalm 46:10)

²**AGREE with who God is and what he’s said (especially about you)**. (John 15:11; 8:32)

³**REFRAME your situation in light of what God says**. (Phil. 4:13; 2 Cor. 4:17)

⁴**Pray it, and declare it ALOUD**. (Rom. 10:10)

⁵**Start THANKING him** (for everything).

Gratitude & joy are inseparable. (Phil. 4:6-7; 2 Thess. 5:18)