

Text: John 15:11

Title: Abiding In His Pleasure

Introduction: As Jesus shared this discourse found in John 15, He was walking with his disciples to the garden of Gethsemane. Since it was around the time of Passover, there was a full moon overhead. There must have been an incredible solemnity amongst this group of disciples.

In just the past few hours Jesus had told them:

1. He would go away and prepare a place for them.
2. The Holy Spirit would comfort them.
3. They were to Abide in Him.
4. They would be Purged by the Father.
5. If they loved Him, they would keep His commandments...

Note – This was pretty heavy stuff for a bunch of new Christians. I can almost sense the burden and responsibility with them.

But, in *verse 11* – He indicates that everything He had said to them was for their joy!

Note – The Christian who Remains in Christ – will Abide in His Pleasure. They will enjoy their Christianity...it is not a duty, it is a delight.

I. The Conditions For Joy

A. Hear the Word of God – vs. 10-11a

Note – All He speaks is meant to produce Joy.

Illustration – Spurgeon – *“His object is not only that we would know the Truth, but that we would have Joy in the truth.”* – Ye shall know the Truth...”

Note- There is no doubt that Jesus is speaking – the question is – anyone listening?

Note – The World is speaking and robbing our Joy and Spiritual Pleasure.

- People Rob our Joy.

- Circumstances Rob our Joy.

Illustration – One day a man who visited the doctor and the doctor came in and said, “Sir, I’ve got bad news and worse news. The bad news is you’ve only got 24 hours to live.” The man gasping said, “Doc, what’s worse than that?” The doctor said, “I was supposed to tell you yesterday!”

Note – Thank God – His word has **good** news and **better** news!

B. Decide – To Respond to God’s Word!

Note – Yes the Bible says. “Rejoice in the Lord” – Will you?

Hab. 3:17-18

17 Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls:

18 Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the god of my salvation.

Note – Some of you need to decide to obey God’s Word and Rejoice, come what may. TRIALS WILL COME

Note – Philippians – Rejoice 19 times – But Happiness is a choice!

Note – Stop depending on circumstances and people and rejoice in the Lord!

II. The Constancy of Joy – vs. 11b

A. His Joy Remains in Us as we Focus on His Word –

Phil 2:5

5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.

-versus-

James 1:8

8 A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

Note – His supply is constant as long as we’re remaining in Him...He delights in giving us joy.

B. His Joy Prevails over any Heartache – *Because it is based on the Power of the Resurrection.*

Heb 12:2

2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our fith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Note – I do not know what you’re burden is today – A way-ward teen, a broken home, the need for a job, the loss of a friend – But the Joy that sustained Jesus is Available.

Psalmist – *“Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.”*

III. The Completeness of His Joy – *v.s 11c*

Note – The Pleasure of an Abiding Relationship with Christ is unlike anything the world has to offer.

A. Your Joy Might Be Full

Ps 16:11 – In thy presence is Fullness of Joy

Note – Jesus wants us to be so full of His joy – the “cheap thrills” Satan offers are far less tempting.

Truly – The Joy of the Lord is your strength! As Branches we share His Joy!

Conclusion – Are you happy in the Lord today or have you been dining at Satan’s Table? Is the Christian Life a Pleasure or a Problem? Happiness is a Choice – It’s up to you. When I am not experiencing Joy, I am not Abiding in the Vine!



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