
SERMON OUTLINE

Joy in a broken world

- I. The Joy Source – Seeking joy where it can be found
 - A. John, Elizabeth, Mary – Joy through trusting God about the future (Luke 1:39-47).
 - B. Elizabeth, Mary, Shepherds, Wise Men – Joy in praising God in the present (Luke 1:57-58; Luke 2:9-11; 20).
- II. The Joy Stealers – Understanding why joy is absent
 - A. Herod's sin – Frustrated ambition, jealousy and murder (Matthew 2:1-4; 16).
 - B. The religious leaders' apathy – Preoccupation with selfish priorities (Matthew 2:4-6).
 - C. The parents' grief – Genuine loss and hurt (Matthew 2:16-18; Rev. 12:4-5; Romans 16:20; Psalm 30:5).

Trusting God for the future leads to joy in the present

1. Do I realize joy is supernatural, not natural within me?
 - ***The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy...*** (Galatians 5:22)
2. Am I focusing on God's long range plan for the future?
 - ***May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him [Jesus], so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*** (Romans 15:13)
3. Am I focused on the presence and care of Jesus Christ for me in my current circumstances?
 - ***Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!*** (Philippians 4:4)