

CHRISTMAS EVE 2024

Luke 2:8-11

... shepherds were staying out in the fields and keeping watch at night over their flock. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Don’t be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of **great joy** that will be for **all** the people: ¹¹ Today in the city of David a Savior was born for you, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

Everyone wants and seeks **joy.**

Everyone **trades for joy.**

Where did you hope to find joy but didn’t ... or it didn’t last?

Luke 1:26-29

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man named Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸ And the angel came to her and said, “Greetings, **favored** woman! The Lord is **with** you.” ²⁹ But she was **deeply troubled** by this statement, wondering what kind of greeting this could be.

{come up one at a time; same slide & keep formatting if possible}

The foundational lie: God is a killjoy.

The foundational truth: God is for the joy of all people.

John 15:11

“I have told you these things so that **My joy** may be in you and your joy may be **complete**.

John 16:22

... I will see you again. Your hearts will rejoice, and **no one will take away** your joy from you.

Psalm 43:4 (NLT)

There I will go to the altar of God, to God—the **source** of all my joy.

Luke 1:30-33

... “**Don’t be afraid**, Mary,” the angel told her, “for you have found favor with God! ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name Him Jesus. ³² He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ And ... **His Kingdom** will never end!”

Luke 1:34-37

Mary asked the angel, “But **how** can this happen? I am a virgin.”

³⁵ The angel replied, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will **overshadow** you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and He will be called the Son of God.

Luke 1:38

“**I am the Lord’s servant,**” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.”

{come up one at a time}

How We Pursue Joy:

- **Control**
- **Striving**
- **Escape/Relief**

{one at a time; one slide}

Worldly Joy:

- **I must have more to be more**
- **I must prove and impress to be valued**
- **Striving is the only way ...**
- **... escape, relief, distraction**

God gives joy **TO** the world but not the joy **OF** the world.

Luke 1:46-48a

Mary said: “My soul **magnifies** the Lord, ⁴⁷ and my spirit **rejoices** in **God my Savior**,
⁴⁸ because He has looked with favor on the **humble** condition of His servant.

{one at a time; same slide}

God gives joy **TO** the world but not the joy **OF** the world.

- **See Jesus as treasure**
- **Trust God**
- **Focus & Fill (mind & soul with Him)**

{all together; one slide}

This Christmas:

Why do you have/not have joy?

Is your joy source secure? Eternal? Sufficient?

{all one slide}

Dear Father,

I recognize Jesus as THE treasure and I joyfully trade everything else to accept Him and make room for Him as my King & Savior. Please forgive me for my sins, fill my emptiness with YOUR JOY and help me to live for you.

In Jesus' Name, AMEN.

Luke 2:10

But the angel said to them, "Don't be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of **great joy** that will be for **all** the people: ¹¹ Today in the city of David a Savior was born for you, who is the Messiah, the Lord.