

Joy Ride

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John 15:11 - These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and *that* your joy may be full.

God is a happy God:

- **Psalm 149:4** – For the Lord takes pleasure in his people...
- **1 Chron. 29:17** - Joy in uprightness
 - a. Psalm 5:4 - God has no pleasure in wickedness
 - b. Psalm 147:11 - God has pleasure in those that fear him and trust his mercy
- **Zephaniah 3:17** - The Lord your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet *you* with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing.
- **Psalm 35:27** - Let them shout for joy and be glad, Who favor my righteous cause; And let them say continually, "Let the Lord be magnified, Who has pleasure in the prosperity of His servant.
- **Haggai 1:8** – "Go up to the mountains and bring wood and build the temple, that I may take pleasure in it and be glorified," says the Lord.
- **Luke 15:7** – 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.

Nehemiah 8:10 - Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for *this day is holy* to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

- At the time these words were proclaimed, the Israelites had just returned from captivity in Babylon. Under the leadership of Ezra and Nehemiah, the people had rebuilt Jerusalem's ruined walls. And now they set their sights on reestablishing the temple and restoring the nation.
- At this point, Nehemiah called a special meeting at the city's water gate, within Jerusalem's rebuilt walls. "And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that was before the water gate" (Nehemiah 8:1). Some 42,360 Israelite men were on hand for this meeting. Standing alongside them were 7,300 servants, including 245 singers. Altogether, about 50,000 people were gathered.

Jesus is the *source* of our joy, His joy is *stable* and it is sufficient.

Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., was a member of the U.S. Supreme Court for 30 years. His mind, wit and work earned him the unofficial title of "the greatest justice since John Marshall." At

one point in his life, Justice Holmes explained his choice of a career by saying: "I might have entered the ministry if certain clergymen I knew had not looked and acted so much like undertakers."

Psalm 16:11 - You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

I want you to notice that this is a Psalm by David. What's unique is that in this psalm David seems to have found the same truths about the Joy of God that we have discovered.

- **Vs. 1** – David proclaims the Lord as his **SOURCE**
- **Vs. 2** – David proclaims this *Source* is **STABLE**
- **Vs. 3** – David proclaims that it is **SUFFICIENT**

The Background of **Psalm 16**:

- Saul was trying to kill David because of jealousy
- David was running for his life with 400 friends
- Saul had 3000 plus soldiers looking for him
- Notice this *Psalm* has the heading *Michtam* – This means **secret / gold**. David is telling us that there is a secret that he learned in this part of his life that made him who he was as King.

Today, I want to go to David's life and gain some insight about the thieves that will try to rob us of our joy:

I. The thief of a **gossiping spirit**

- A. **Psalm 41** – This was written when David's son Absalom had betrayed him (**2 Samuel 15-18**)
 - i. Even Mephibosheth tried to take over the kingdom – **2 Samuel 16:3**
 - ii. Shimei betrayed David and gossiped about him
- B. It is believed that David was sick during this time, probably from the mere stress of his betrayal.
- C. All of the gossip was wearing on his body, emotions and spirit.

II. The thief of **family conflict**

- A. Michal loved David very much at one time – **1 Samuel 18:20**
- B. Michal despised David as he worshipped the Lord – **2 Samuel 6:16 / 2 Samuel 6:23**
 - i. David was never intimate again with her
 - ii. How did they go from love to despise?
 - iii. This led to David's sin...
- C. **1 Peter 3:7** – If there is family conflict your prayers are hindered.

III. The thief of **hidden sin** – **Psalm 51**

- A. David sinned with Bathsheba

B. Nathan the Prophet revealed the hidden sin

C. David said he lost the joy of his salvation – vs. 8, 12

IV. The thief of unforgiveness

A. David's opportunities for unforgiveness:

i. David and Saul

ii. David and Mephibosheth

iii. David and Shimei

iv. David and Absalom

v. DAVID VS. DAVID!!

B. *Unforgiveness does not reflect the character of Christ, and it demonstrates ingratitude for the mercy of God extended to us.*

C. **Hebrews 12:15** – We miss the grace of God when we don't forgive!

Conclusion:

- **Ezekiel 33:11** - Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord God, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?'

- God has no joy when wicked die

- **Hebrews 10:38** - Now the just shall live by faith; But if *anyone* draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him."

- God has no pleasure in a back slider