

## Week three – thought for the day - Joy

### **2 Chronicles 30:25-27**

<sup>25</sup> The whole assembly of Judah, and the priests and the Levites, and the whole assembly that came out of Israel, and the sojourners who came out of the land of Israel, and the sojourners who dwelt in Judah, rejoiced. <sup>26</sup> So there was **great joy** in Jerusalem, for since the time of Solomon the son of David king of Israel there had been nothing like this in Jerusalem. <sup>27</sup> Then the priests and the Levites arose and blessed the people, and their voice was heard, and their prayer came to his holy habitation in heaven.

By postponing the Passover for a month, Hezekiah allows extra time for the priests to prepare and for the pilgrims to make travel plans. Some greet his plan with skepticism, but a king's proclamation does carry weight. For the first time in 200 years, the entire nation unites to celebrate a religious festival.

Whilst we are unable to gather together to worship – we can know that God's people have been in this position before – whilst Easter and Pentecost pass by, we look forward to a time when it is safe to meet together and worship. Hopefully we will not be prevented from celebrating together with great joy for quite this long!

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### **Psalm 47:1-2**

<sup>1</sup> Clap your hands, all you nations;  
shout to God with cries of joy.

<sup>2</sup> For the Lord Most High is awesome,  
the great King over all the earth.

Psalms are a rich source of praise and references to joy are frequent. I have found listening to worship songs has been a source of real joy for me during the lockdown. Where do you find joy?

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### **Psalm 16:10**

<sup>10</sup> because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,  
nor will you let your faithful<sup>[a]</sup> one see decay.

<sup>11</sup> You make known to me the path of life;  
you will fill me with joy in your presence,  
with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

Psalm 16 reminds us that there is great joy in being in the Lord's presence – even when we are apart we cannot be separated from the Lord, He is with us, always to the very end of the age (Matt 28:20) – does this knowledge give you joy?

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### **Matthew 13:44**

*44 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.'*

This verse is such a great encouragement – finding the Kingdom of Heaven is a source of great joy, giving up everything to gain this precious treasure fills the seeker with joy. Are you a seeker filled with joy at finding a hidden treasure?

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### **Psalm 4:6-8**

*6 Many, LORD, are asking, 'Who will bring us prosperity?'*

*Let the light of your face shine on us.*

*7 Fill my heart with joy*

*when their grain and new wine abound.*

*8 In peace I will lie down and sleep,*

*for you alone, LORD,*

*make me dwell in safety.*

This Psalm reminds us that we can rely on God for our provision and for our security. This knowledge, brings us joy and peace. Do you know this joy?

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### **Luke 10:20-21**

*20 However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.'*

*21 At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, 'I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.'*

The disciples were overjoyed as their missionary journey had been successful, they had been able to perform and witness amazing miracles- Jesus tells them to focus their joy on their own salvation, there is no greater miracle than God's mercy and saving Grace. The Holy Spirit fills Jesus with joy – are you rejoicing in your salvation, is the Holy Spirit filling you with joy as you praise the Father?

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### **Romans 15:13**

*13 May the God of hope fill **you** with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Paul's blessing to the Romans echoes down the centuries, as we trust in the God of all hope, we will be filled with joy and peace, overflowing with hope in the power of the Holy Spirit. Read the verse again and imagine it is being written to you, put your name in place of the bold **you**. Then pray it again thinking of others in the fellowship. It is the prayer we pray for each other as we bless each other today. May your joy abound.

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