**The Gift #3: Jesus Is My JOY!**

**12.12.22**

* **The Shepherds Message: Jesus Is OUR Joy.**

*8And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.  10But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause* ***great joy for all the people****. 11Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.* Luke 2:8-11

**Happiness**: Grk *markarios* means: “a state of well-being; a pleasurable or satisfying experience.” 30x in Bible.

**Joy**: Grk *chara* means: “to feel great delight; to be glad.” 300+ in the bible.

**NOTE**: Biblically, both Joy and Happiness involve emotions. Joy is based on internal well-being or the anticipation of well-being. Joy can be sustained in both positive and negative circumstances.

***16****Rejoice always…* 1 Thessalonians 5:16

*No soul that seriously and constantly* ***desires joy*** *will ever miss it..* ***If you want joy****…you must get close to, or even into, the thing that has them.*

 **(C.S. Lewis)**

* **John The Baptist: LEAPED For Joy In Jesus’ Presence.**

*42In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! 43But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my* ***womb leaped for joy.***Lk 1:42-44

***22****All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:* ***23****“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him* ***Immanuel****” (which means “God with us”).* Matthew 1:22-23

*11You 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 16:11

Mark 5:9-10

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* **The Magi: Filled With Joy Over The SIGNS Messiah’s Presence.**

***10****When they saw the star,* ***they were overjoyed****.****11****On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.* Matthew 2:10-11

* **Caution: Sin HINDERS Our True Joy.**

***10****If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love.****11****I have told you this so that* ***my joy may be in you*** *and that* ***your joy may be complete****.****12****My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.* John 15:10-12

**Final Thoughts On Experiencing JOY:**

**Our Joy Isn’t Based On Our Circumstances**

**But On What God Is Doing In And Through Me.**

***2Consider it pure joy****, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds,****3****because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.****4****Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.* James 1:2-4

***6****In all this* ***you greatly rejoice****, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.****7****These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—* 1 Peter 1:6-7