



Joy Came Down, Pt. 4: Joy Beyond

The Christians in the first century were filled with joy, but their circumstances didn't get any better as a result of following Jesus. In fact, their circumstances grew worse. Following Jesus and being identified with Jesus was costly for them. And yet ... they had joy. They were optimistic. What was it that enabled them to have joy?

Bottom Line: Ultimate joy is anchored in an eternal perspective.

Discussion Questions:

1. How do you normally receive difficult news? a) I am quite and turn inward, b) I deflect and place blame elsewhere, c) I ask clarifying questions, d) I panic and think the world is about to end.
2. How often do you think of Heaven or about the second coming of Jesus? a) pretty much never, b) occasionally, c) when bad things happen, d) often. Why do you think you have this frequency of thinking about these things?
3. **Read Romans 8:14-18, 31-39.** How might this passage help your perspective during a difficult season, or when you receive difficult or disappointing news?
4. **Read Thessalonians 4:13-18.** From this passage, what encourages you, excites you, or makes you nervous?
5. What was the most challenging idea/thought to you from the message this week?
6. What was the most helpful/encouraging thought or idea from the message this week? How did it help you?
7. How can the group encourage you this week?