



Joy Came Down, Pt. 1: Joy That Endures

At the announcement of the birth of Jesus, the angel described this event as one that would bring joy to all the people. When Jesus came, so did joy. Why would his birth bring joy to all the people? How is it possible to have joy that endures, even when the circumstances of life don't lend themselves to joy?

Bottom Line: The source of your joy determines its endurance.

Discussion Questions:

1. Describe a happy occasion in your life? What were the circumstances?
2. How would you define joy? How is it different than happiness?
3. **Read Luke 2:8-11 and Matthew 1:20-21.** What was the reason the angel gave the shepherds as to why all people could have joy? What is the relation between the message to the shepherds and to Joseph in Matthew 1:21? What does this reveal about our greatest need?
4. **Read John 16:16-22.** Jesus said that in the end, they would have a joy that no one could take from them. What was the source of that joy?
5. What are some things that you have in Christ that cannot be taken from you?
6. **Read 2 Corinthians 4:8-9, 16-18.** What enabled Paul to be renewed day by day? Describe a time when you experienced a similar "renewal" in the midst of difficult circumstances. What made the difference for you?
7. **Read Colossians 3:1-4.** What are some ways we can change the focus of our minds from what is temporal to what is eternal (from earthly to heavenly)?
8. What was the most challenging idea/thought to you from the message?
9. What was the most helpful/encouraging thought or idea from the message this week? How did it help you?
10. How can the group encourage you this week?