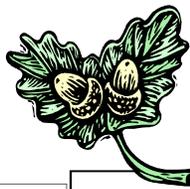


May 29, 2016



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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James Haymon
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Class Leaders:
Inreach: Pat Hester
Outreach: Joyce Kirkland
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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
God is our source of joy, refreshment, and strength in times of need

PROMISE FOR THE WEEK:
God wants each of us to discover through confession and repentance the deep, cool waters of joy found in the everlasting well of His salvation

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
*Therefore with joy you will draw water
From the wells of salvation*
(Isa 12:3 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Jan 9, 2016)

NEXT WEEK

Bro Cisneros Teaches

Joyous Faith
Luke 19:1-10

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson reminds us that as Christians we should seek and enjoy **Joyous Faith**. The **study's aim** is to realize that true joy comes only from faith in Jesus Christ. The **study's application** is to increase in joy by growing in faith.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

On the surface, Zacchaeus had the good life. He was a chief tax collector, which made him very wealthy. Jericho was prosperous, and he gleaned a huge cut of that prosperity. He was the boss of other tax collectors, and he had some influence with the Roman officials. Despite all this, he was miserable. You see, Zacchaeus had one big problem: he was excluded from Jewish society. He was despised for collaborating with the Romans. The social elite placed him on the same level as a woman of ill repute (Matt. 21:31-32). He was as ritually unclean as a leper. Jericho was filled with zealous priests who constantly condemned him. Zacchaeus was the last person with whom any good Jew would associate. He was lost, without redemption. This was the state of his life when Jesus entered Jericho that day. Zacchaeus had heard stories about Jesus and how He welcomed the lowly of society. Would he find acceptance with this carpenter from Nazareth? Was it possible? His curiosity was piqued, and hope stirred. That drove him into climbing the sycamore tree. That is where Jesus found him.

Our Saviour knows the hearts of those around Him. He understood that for others He was just a curiosity but that Zacchaeus was seeking something deeper. Jesus met Zacchaeus where he was, and Zacchaeus found the acceptance he had been denied. That one visit to Zacchaeus's house transformed him. Christ's compassion changed him from being a crook to an honest man and earnest follower. He righted all the wrongs of his past. He found redemption, and his joy overflowed into celebration and change. His actions proved his sincerity. He was filled with the joy of salvation.

There is more than one lesson to glean from this. First, we need to realize that God values everyone. No matter how society regards us, God loves all of us as we are. We do not have to clean ourselves up to approach Him. Our salvation gives us great cause for joy (I Pet. 1:8-9). In fact, joy should be a fruit of our faith (Gal. 5:22). Second, we need to remember not to exclude people from receiving Christ's message simply because they do not fit our idea of a believer. Instead, the joy we have in the gospel should motivate us to draw others to Jesus, no matter their station in life. A joyous faith is one that radiates from that person. It is contagious and uncontained, so we need to get out there and spread it. If we are not doing that, we should ask just how joyful our walk truly is.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

SEEKING JOYOUS FAITH (LUKE 19:1-4)

God meets us where we are (1-2)

Meets us where we are because He chose us (John 15:16)

Meets us where we are because He wants to give us rest (Matt 11:28)

Meets us where we are because it is His Will (Eph 1:4-5)

Meets us where we are through the gospel (1 Thess 1:4-6)

Meets us where we are because of His grace (2 Tim 1:9)

Obstacles while seeking God (3)

Obstacles of all kinds of evil (1 Thess 5:22)

Obstacles from the devil (James 4:7-8)

Obstacles from my old self (Eph 4:22)

Obstacles of unrighteousness (Col 3:8-11)

Obstacles of things that hinder (Heb 12:1)

God provides way for us to find Him (4)

We can find God if we love Him (Prov 8:17)

We can find God if we seek His kingdom (Matt 6:33)

We can find God if we ask and seek (Matt 7:7-8)

We can find God when He is near (Isa 55:6)

CALLED INTO JOYOUS FAITH (LUKE 19:5-6)

Called to follow (5)

Called to follow into one hope (Eph 4:3-6)

Called to follow into eternal life (1 Tim 6:12)

Called to follow into fellowship (1 Cor 1:9)

Called to follow Jesus' example (1 Peter 2:21)

Called to follow into service (John 12:26)

Obedying the call (6)

Obedying the call to love God (John 14:15)

Obedying the call to live by the Holy Spirit (Rom 8:12-14)

Obedying the call to be obedient and serve God (Dan 3:16-18)

Obedying the call offer our whole selves as living sacrifices (Rom 12:1)

SALVATION THROUGH JOYOUS FAITH (LUKE 19:7-10)

Salvation from sin (7)

Salvation through Jesus' Name (Acts 4:12)

Salvation through receiving the goal of faith (1 Peter 1:8-9)

Salvation through belief (John 1:12-13)

Salvation through the gospel (Eph 1:13-14)

Salvation through justification by Jesus' blood (Rom 5:9)

Salvation results in giving (8)

Giving to help those who ask (Matt 5:39-42)

Giving generously (Prov 11:24-25)

Giving to do good works (1 Tim 6:17-19)

Giving to share with others (Heb 13:16)

Giving purposely and cheerfully (2 Cor 9:7)

Salvation requires relationship with God (9)

A relationship that deals with the mind and heart (Heb 8:7-10)

A relationship that is written with the Holy Spirit on the heart (2 Cor 3:3)

A relationship through faith (Gal 3:26-29)

A relationship in which we are called children of God (Rom 8:16-17)

A relationship that makes us heirs of God (Titus 3:3-7)

Salvation of the lost (10)

Salvation of the lost because God searches for them (Ezek 34:16)

Salvation of the lost because Jesus came for sinners (Matt 9:12-14)

Salvation of the lost because there is joy in Heaven in saving the lost (Luke 15:7)

Salvation of the lost because Jesus died for the lost (Rom 5:6)