



## “Curious Causes for Joy”

Luke 10:17 -24

January 27, 2019

This morning we come to a portion of Scripture that is filled with the experience of joy and excitement and exuberance and of praise. Not only will we see the joy of the early followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, but we will see the Messiah Himself greatly rejoicing in the sight of His Father.

I pray that this joy will not only be found here in the text that we read, but I pray that it would be found in our hearts as well as the Spirit of Jesus works within us, as He speaks into our lives the truths that are in this text for us.

I have titled this morning’s message *Curious Causes for Joy*. I used that word *curious* in the most positive possible sense of the word. I have been meditating on this passage in recent weeks, and it occurred me how different and uncommon and intriguing are the sources of joy found in this passage of Scripture.

I’m not sure how often the people of the church, let alone the people of the world, find gladness in what is before us here today. But we remember that among the fruits of the Spirit there is joy. I pray that we would receive what is here in this text and that it would create joy in our hearts, even as we are living in a world that is filled with sorrow and heaviness and conflict and controversy.

The command of the Lord is to rejoice in the Lord always. This is even repeated. The author Paul said, *I will say it again, rejoice the Lord is near. The Lord is at hand.* There is the truth of eternal grace to be pondered and considered by the people of God.

As we get into the text this morning and move into the world of the New Testament once again, we pick up with something of a sequel—Part Two to last week’s passage that we studied together. We have been moving through the Gospel of Luke verse by verse, section by section, and we are at the point now where Jesus and the early Galilean ministry of Jesus is over.

Now Jesus gradually and steadfastly moves from the region of Galilee toward Jerusalem, where He would die on the cross for our sin. As Jesus moved toward Jerusalem, what we found last week is that He had a larger company of people devoted to Him, and He sent seventy-two of His followers on ahead of Him.

Jesus sent seventy-two to go and preach the Kingdom and to heal the sick, to prepare the different cities that He would pass through for His coming, and to prepare them for His ministry. Last week we got to listen in as Jesus sent them forward.

We remember that Jesus sent them forth with optimism as those going into the harvest that was plentiful. In addition to that, we also remember that Jesus sent them forth with sobriety, that they would also be as lambs in the midst wolves.

Coming into this morning's portion of Scripture, we have Part 2. The seventy-two sent ones had an appointed time and place where they would come back together and report to the Lord Jesus. Now they have all returned and we see something of a team meeting. It was kind of like a staff meeting, where everybody reported just what happened in their experiences as they went out on their tours of duty.

Let's see the joy as it overflowed in this portion of Scripture. Luke Chapter 10 and Verses 17 through 24:

**<sup>17</sup>The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!" <sup>18</sup>And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. <sup>19</sup>Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. <sup>20</sup>Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."**

**<sup>21</sup>In the same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>22</sup>All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."**

**<sup>23</sup>Then turning to the disciples he said privately, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see! <sup>24</sup>For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it."**

As you can see, we have a portion of Scripture here that is bursting forth with joy in the Lord. It is just such an interesting portion of Scripture to me, because I think that there are sources of joy that we just don't think of enough that are found in this portion of Scripture.

I don't know if you have noticed it or not, but we are living in a world where people are stressed out, freaked out, and burned out. There is a lot of sorrow and heaviness in this world. We even experience it ourselves.

I was thinking about where people in the world find their joy. How do they experience it? I got my trusty cell phone out and I asked the artificial intelligence, Bixby, *Where do people find joy?* People with iPhones might ask Siri the same question. Bixby is the AI of the Samsung Note 8.

Bixby pulled up several articles, most of them self-help and pop psychology that declared where you might find joy. I read through some of them. One of them listed forty ways to have joy every day. The list included: Eat a cupcake. Bake a cake. Play with a child. Play like an animal. Read a good book. Get out into nature. Laugh with your friends. Spend time with your loved ones.

I thought, *So far so good!* Those are all good things. They are gifts of God's common grace. There was one very suspect piece of advice that I found in one of the articles that said, *If you want to find joy, you need to get out a sheet of paper and write a thank you letter to yourself.* Wow! That was interesting. It is like: Nobody else was going to recognize everything I do, so I will recognize it myself and find joy like that. This was the piece of advice that was given.

However, there are gifts of God in this world like the natural realm that He created, like people that we get to live life with, and like playing board games. These things are good.

But as we get into the Word of God this morning, the Spirit of God is going to send us deeper. He is going to lay a more firm foundation of joy for us to stand upon when life throws its worst our way, even in this very hard and fallen world that we all live in.

Looking into this portion of Scripture, we are going to see a few sources of joy that I don't think people think about often enough, but I want us to see them. There are three sources of joy here. The first two are experienced by the disciples. The third is experienced by the Lord Jesus Himself.

Let's look at this passage and see these three sources of joy. Let's be in prayer that we would have eyes to see and that we would have ears to hear and by the grace of the Holy Spirit, we would have hearts to receive.

Three causes for joy we see as recorded in the Gospel of Luke. First, we see that there was:

### **1. The Joy of God's Power (10:17)**

I wonder if you noticed it here in this text, particularly the joy that was found for the disciples in victorious spiritual warfare. Verse 17:

**<sup>17</sup>The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!"**

These seventy-two were sent out to preach the Kingdom and heal the sick. What they found as they went and carried out this ministry in the power of the Lord, is that they were given the ability to subdue even demonic forces. The disciples were blown away at the power that they wielded.

Throughout the pages of Scripture, we find that there is power in the Name of Jesus Christ. The seventy-two found that even demonic powers submitted to them. They were amazed by it and came back with their hearts elated. In our vernacular, perhaps they said something like, *This is awesome.*

We have this crazy dog named Lydia—Lydie-Lou. She is our black Lab-German Shepherd mix, who we also call a psycho doggie. She is kind of a fearful and protective dog. She does not trust anybody, except very few that are in her circle of trust.

For a while, we were working with a dog trainer. I was amazed at how this young lady came in and carried herself, postured herself, and by the way that she looked at Lydie. In response, Lydie was mesmerized, doing what she was told to do. I wondered what power this little lady wielded over our dog—like Caesar Millan!

How much more the power that these disciples had run through them so that demons were submitting to them. What we find in the pages of Scripture is that there is an unseen spiritual realm. There is warfare that is taking place all around us. There are angels, and there are demons. The Bible is emphatic about this.

Even looking through the pages of Biblical history, what we find is that for the most part those demons, they prefer to remain hidden. Going back to a dog illustration, there are like fleas underneath the coat of the dog. The fleas are not immediately evident, but they are always there.

Demons were always there, but when Christ came into the world suddenly, we see this flurry of overt demonic activity. There was upheaval. It was going crazy in the region of Israel. The disciples saw crazy things as Jesus subdued the power of these demonic forces. Then Jesus had given the disciples the same power and ability to wage war against the demonic realm, and they came back ecstatic.

We get into our day and time and we are taught by the Lord to be sure that there are demonic forces. When we read through Ephesians Chapter 6, we find that for the most part our posture is to be one of defense. Stand firm in the full armor of God knowing that demons working covertly, they want to deceive people. They want to get people in bondage.

There is a joy that we ought to have in praying for people in Jesus' Name and seeing demonic strongholds broken. That is a joy of the Christian life. This is something that we need to devote ourselves to and pray for—pray that there would be victory and that people would be set free from the bondage that demons want to keep people in.

This is a great sense of joy, and I think it had to have been very much elevated for these disciples, especially during the era that they lived in, those years with the Christ present on the earth.

As we continue in this portion of Scripture, it is so interesting that as amazing as this power in spiritual warfare is, and as pumped up as those disciples were, Jesus redirected their joy. He affirmed their report. He even advanced it. He brought them into the understanding of amazing realities, but He redirected their joy because there was something even more fundamental than spiritual warfare.

That is the grace of God in salvation. That we are people through faith in Christ saved. Look at where this goes as we see the next cause for joy in the Christian life. There is:

## **2. The Joy of God's Gift (10:18-20)**

Starting again in Luke Chapter 10 and Verse 17:

**<sup>17</sup>The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!” <sup>18</sup>And he said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. <sup>19</sup>Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. <sup>20</sup>Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”**

Here we have the gift of God, and that is eternal life. Brothers and sisters in Christ, there is a place called Heaven. It is the spectacular dwelling place of Almighty God. For each humble-hearted believer in Jesus, our names are known in Heaven. Not only that, our names are written down in Heaven. They are recorded solemnly there.

Scripture tells us that there is a book in Heaven that holds the names of everyone who is in Christ. Jesus said in Verse 29:

**<sup>20</sup>...do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”**

This is the more fundamental joy that we have as followers of Jesus Christ—that He has saved us, and He has permanently registered us in the citizenship of Heaven. Jesus said that our names are written in Heaven. What an amazing statement that we have from the heart of the Messiah to us.

Verses 18 through 20 is such a rich portion of teaching. There are some things here to stir and to amaze the believing heart. I pray that we would all have believing hearts. What we find in those verses is that the Lord Jesus uses the word *heaven* twice, and before declaring to the disciples that their names were written in Heaven, He stated that He saw Satan cast down or Satan falling from Heaven like a bolt of lightning.

Verse 18 is an interesting verse. I spent some time chewing on that this week. Digging into the commentaries and reading what different Bible teachers have to say about this, I found there are so many perspectives among conservative and solid Bible scholars that is both soul-stirring and head-spinning at the same time. This is a verse to be studied, and I would encourage you to do so.

There were two opinions that came to the surface and enhances the meaning of everything that is written in this verse as far as God’s gift of salvation is concerned. The first way Verse 18 is commonly interpreted is that when Jesus said that He saw Satan fall from heaven like lightning, He was talking about something that He seen at that time as the disciples were out casting out demons.

Jesus saw something in the spiritual realm, and it was Satan being cast down so hard that it looked like a bolt of lightning. The sending of the seventy-two and their victory in spiritual warfare was another decisive victory in the saga of God’s warfare against Satan, this enemy.

This is possibly something that Jesus was watching for and that He saw as the disciples did their work.

This is so amazing because we know from Scripture that Satan was a fallen angel. He was once an angelic being with a position in Heaven. Then impure pride was found in his heart and he was cast down, but he still has access to Heaven. It says in Romans Chapter 12 and Verses 9 and 10 that Satan is the accuser of the brethren.

I began wondering if Satan was there in Heaven, just like he was with Job, accusing the brethren. Perhaps he was there accusing these seventy-two sent ones as they went out and entered into his domain and having victory. He was there before the Throne of God trying to disqualify the disciples.

However, such was the victory in Christ that the disciples had that Satan was cast down with strength, failing to disqualify them. That is just me trying to think about what might have been happening here.

What we do know is that Satan was somehow cast down. It could have been something that was happening right there. Satan was cast down while the disciple's names remained written in Heaven. That is something that is pretty amazing to think about.

Other Bible teachers say there is the possibility that Jesus was not talking about something that He saw right then and there but instead, He was speaking of something that He saw back at the dawn of time—back when that pride was originally found in Lucifer's heart.

Reading through Isaiah Chapter 14, it seems that is descriptive of the sin of Lucifer. It was almost as though Lucifer wanted to inhabit the holy hill of God, and he had messianic aspirations of his own. He wanted to rule and reign. At that time, Lucifer was cast down from Heaven to earth in judgment. So, maybe Jesus was referring to that time when He, the preexistent Son of God, saw this act of decisive judgment.

Now we have the disciples coming back from their time of ministry, and they were elated with the success that they saw. Reading through the commentary of J. C. Ryle, one of my favorite commentators from yesteryear, he pointed out how pride is such a subtle and powerful and destructive thing.

The disciples returned and they were pumped up at the power that they wielded. Maybe Jesus detected a little bit of something prideful, so while affirming the victory they had, Jesus may have been telling them to watch out because He had seen Satan fall from Heaven because of the pride that was living in Satan's heart. Satan was getting puffed up.

Even ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ need to beware of that sense of power and pride that can enter into their hearts. Carried by the Holy Spirit, the Apostle Paul in I Timothy 3:6 gave advise to churches about any candidate for the office elder:

**<sup>6</sup>He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil.**

Perhaps the Lord was detecting something in the disciples and was reminding them of the fall of Satan. Whatever Verse 18 means, the disciples came back with the victory and Jesus told them not to rejoice in it. Yes, spiritual warfare is an awesome thing, and Jesus affirmed that He was at work through them to subdue even demonic forces. Yes, yes, yes!

Jesus told them, *Don't rejoice in this. Before you rejoice in what I am doing through you, you rejoice in what I have done for you by my grace. You rejoice that there is Book in Heaven and before you even knew about it, your names were written in it. This is the Book of the Lamb; the Lamb's Book of Life. You rejoice that you are saved by grace.*

We need to be those who rejoice at the gift of God. We see this here as Jesus pointed us to that book, that wonderous and amazing book. I was reading this passage this week, and I began looking around at things I saw on my wall like my Ordination Certificate—Jeff Saltzmann—with a lot of other names written on it to affirm it.

I also saw my name on my Diploma of Master of Divinity Degree from Talbot Seminary. Big deal! My name is written in Heaven by the grace of God. That is the glorious thing that we need to think about and keeping our minds fixed upon it. Jesus said:

**<sup>20</sup>...but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.**

We continue, and we see a third source of joy here in this text. What comes next is a very special moment in the Gospel of Luke, because this is one of the very few places in the New Testament that we read of the Messiah's experience of joy.

It was an exuberant kind of joy that Jesus experienced. We see:

### **3. The Joy of God's Plan (10:21-22)**

Look at what is says going into Verse 21 and 22:

**<sup>21</sup>In the same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit...**

Luke, carried by the Holy Spirit, did a vocabulary shift with that word *rejoiced*. Luke wrote in Koine Greek. That is what underlies our English translation. In Verse 21, Luke used a different term for the word *joy*.

The previous uses of the word *joy* are that of *xara* that is the settled sense of gladness of heart. However, in Verse 22 Luke used a different word. He used the word *agaleeao*, and that word kind of sounds like glee—*agaleeao*!

The essence of that word is the same as others, but this is like an exuberant kind of joy. This is to exalt. A good translation might be that Jesus was overjoyed when He said these things. Jesus was like the Maggi. He rejoiced greatly with great joy as He contemplated the plan of God.

We see this laid out for us in this passage as we continue. Verse 21, once again:

**<sup>21</sup>In the same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.**

**<sup>22</sup>All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”**

We have Christ rejoicing in the plan of God in this portion of Scripture. What we see is that there are two aspects of God’s working of salvation; two aspects of His plan that Jesus was rejoicing in.

First, Jesus rejoiced that God’s Kingdom is revealed to the humble. Second, Jesus rejoiced that God’s rule has been entrusted to the Son, to Himself. He rejoiced in these things, and we see it here in this text.

Jesus said it again in Verse 21. This is all about God’s Kingdom being revealed to the humble:

**<sup>21</sup>....“I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.**

That term *little children* are the words that are used for infants. The Kingdom of God is revealed to humble-hearted, needy people who know their sin and their need of God’s grace. It is not for the heady, and not for those who are wise in their own conceits. It is only for the humble.

Have you ever noticed that there are some people in this world, they think they know it all? They think they are entitled to it all. They think they should be in control of it all. They are wise in their own conceits. This is kind of who is in view in Verse 21.

However, Jesus was saying that the Kingdom is hidden from those with conceit, and revealed to the babies. I wonder what the disciples thought about that. Lord, I am so happy that You have hidden this from all the sages and the gurus who think so much of themselves and You made the truths and the power of Your Kingdom known to the babies. Thank you, Lord!

The plan of God is that as the Kingdom of God advances in this world, it advances through people who are of low spirit. Even by the very Spirit of God, they come to understand that there is nothing to the plate that they bring. They need to be those who depend entirely on God and His saving mercy and grace. We are people saved by grace. Jesus was rejoicing in this.



In addition to that, Jesus rejoiced in the fact that God the Father has entrusted the rule of the Kingdom to Him. We see that in Verse 22.

**<sup>22</sup>All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”**

Here we see the authority of the Kingdom entrusted to the Son of God. *All things have been handed over to me*, and Jesus was rejoicing in this.

I read this and it occurred to me that what we just read in Verse 22 is very much akin to Matthew’s statement of the Great Commission at the very end of the Gospel of Matthew. These texts are very similar.

Both emphasize the great authority given to Christ. One passage emphasizes human responsibility in spreading the Kingdom and people coming to faith. The other passage emphasizes the sovereignty of God in salvation, in revealing His truths to His elect.

They are similar portions of Scripture. In the Great Commission found in the Gospel of Matthew Chapter 28, Jesus declared in Verse 18:

**<sup>18</sup>...”All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me**

That is such an awesome statement. Jesus often would use certain figures of speech, but that was not exaggerated statement. That was not hyperbole. When Jesus said:

**<sup>18</sup>...”All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me**

He was just declaring the very reality of the fact that He is King of kings and Lord of lords. Then Jesus went on to emphasized human responsibility in the work of salvation. Matthew Chapter 28 and verse 19:

**<sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.**

In Luke, we have a statement that is very much akin to that one. This time Jesus gave us the glimpse into God’s prerogative in saving people and revealing God to sinners. Again, in Verse 22, Jesus said:

**<sup>22</sup>All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”**

Yes, brothers and sisters, this is the Doctrine of Election—that God chooses sinners to be saved. It is a Biblical doctrine and right here, Jesus was rejoicing in it and praising God for it.

We are to be those who humble ourselves and delight in the work of God in opening the eyes of sinners like us to the reality that Jesus is King of kings and Lord of lords. Jesus was delighting in the choice of God in the salvation of sinners.

I pray that we, as those who submit our hearts to what is written in the pages of Scripture, would rejoice in this doctrine as well, because it is written here for us. We see Jesus delighting in these things. I pray that the Holy Spirit would give us eyes to see.

When it comes to the Doctrine of Election, there are a lot of people in the church who are still in the Romans Chapter 9 experience, but we need to get moved into the Ephesians Chapter 1 experience, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans Chapter 9 is all about the doctrine of divine election. Paul asked why there were some Jewish people getting saved and others were not, and that boils down to God's choice. Paul went on in that text to talk about the fact that it does not come down to the will of man, but to the will of God. This is stated very, very plainly in Romans Chapter 9.

Paul anticipated objections—why does God make us like this or why does it happen like that—and to this Paul said, *Who are you O man to talk back to God.* There is something in a lot of people that will resist the idea of God choosing people to be saved.

When we get into Ephesians Chapter 1, we see the breakthrough of the joy of the Lord that it is by grace that we are saved. Ephesians Chapter 1 beginning in Verse 3:

**<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love <sup>5</sup>he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.**

Jesus delighted in the Doctrine of Election, so did the Apostle Paul, and I pray that we will too because it is a Biblical teaching through and through.

We continue and have seen the joy of God's power, the joy of God's gift, and the joy of God's plan. We finish this final touch in Verses 23 and 24:

**<sup>23</sup>Then turning to the disciples he said privately, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see! <sup>24</sup>For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it."**

The team meeting may have very well been in a public place with many people trying to listen in, but Jesus gathered His disciples aside and told them that they were so blessed to have the understanding they had, to see the things they saw, and to hear the things that they heard.

I am into a good pattern almost every morning, by God's grace. When I get up, the first thing I do is to turn the coffee maker on, put a comb through my hair, and brush my teeth. Then I open the Bible. I read Scripture every morning. I like to have my sunrise with the Son!

Recently I have been reading through the life of David. Now I am in the life of Solomon. This week I have been reading through First Kings and Solomon's construction of the Jerusalem Temple and how when that time of consecration came, Solomon prayed. Then the Temple was filled with the glory of the Lord.

His glory came like a plume. God's presence filled that place. It was such a powerful occasion. I thought how awesome it would have been to be there to see that happen, or going back to the time of Moses where the Red Sea was parted, and the people of Israel passed through it.

How awesome it would have been to see that, but Jesus might step up to us and say, *No. How blessed you are to live in the era that you are living in. There were kings and prophets of old who longed to know the things that you know.*

We are here in this day and age where the Canon of Scripture has been completed, where we can read about how the very Messiah of God came into the world to save sinners through the shedding of His blood.

We have this account that is made alive and active in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, how Jesus rose from the dead, and how He ascended to Heaven, and we have the descriptions in the pages of Scripture of how Jesus is going to come back to us someday soon. Jesus might tell us that we are so blessed to know the things that we know.

So, I encourage you to spend time with the Lord. Contemplate His truth. Think of the treasure of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Good News of salvation that He has brought to us. Let these things fill your heart, because we are blessed, and we are blessed indeed. There is joy filling this text up, and I pray that the joy that was there in the hearts of the disciples and the joy that was there in Christ would be in us as well.

We need to study the attributes of God. When we think about the attributes of God, we tend to think first, and probably rightfully so, of His holiness and His power and His omnipotence and His might and His ever-presence. But in your study of the attributes of God, don't forget about the joy of the Lord.

Our God is a happy-hearted God. God has joy! We see Jesus here in joy, and we need to know that our Father is like that. Think about the power that a strong man has as he has effect on the tone in the atmosphere of his home. He comes home and he is grumpy and grouchy and irritated and upset, doesn't that just totally effect the atmosphere of the entire home?

Imagine a man who comes home, and his heart has joy. His heart is filled with goodness and grace. His heart is happy. Doesn't that effect the home as well? We have a happy God. First Chronicles 16:27 says:

<sup>27</sup>...Strength and joy are in his place.

Zephaniah 3:17

**The LORD your God is in your midst,  
a mighty one who will save;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness;  
he will quiet you by his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing.**

Isaiah 62:5, God said to His people in the future:

<sup>5</sup>**As the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so your God will rejoice over you.**

We serve a God who is a happy-hearted God. Yes, His holiness is there and yes, He must judge sin, but praise God for His love and for His joy.

I pray that with the knowledge of the joy of the Lord, we as God's people would have a curious kind of joy that is distinct from the joy that is experienced in the world. I pray that we would go forth with the knowledge that Jesus saves and that we would seek to spread that knowledge and see as many people saved as we can possibly see—all in accordance with the great design of the Lord.

Let's close in a word of prayer.