



Series: A Thrill of Hope

Sermon: Part 1: Immense Joy

Date: Sunday, December 1st, 2024

_____ : a count of the entire population

There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. “Do not be afraid. I bring you Good News of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord.” (Luke 2:8-11)

How can I feel joy when my expectations are not met by my reality?

How can I feel joy when things haven't been turning out the way that I hoped?

How can I feel joy when I just don't know what to do next in the midst of all this uncertainty?

God became a human and the birth of this child, Jesus, was a reminder that God has come to live among us with the intention of _____ the relationship that He once had with us.

God Himself would be in their midst and that there would be nothing to be _____ of.

“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a Son, and will call Him Immanuel.” (Isaiah 7:14)

Immanuel means “God with us” or “God is with us.”

This promise that God would come among us was finally realized and His promise to save would be realized as well.

Jesus is the One that gives _____.

Jesus came to free people from a bigger enemy that plagues and destroys humanity. He came to save us from our sins.

“I am the Lord, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for Me?” (Jeremiah 32:27)

This wasn't just a baby in a manger, this was the God of the universe inviting us to do life with Him and allow Him to be Lord over all areas of our life as we surrender our control to His will in our lives.



_____ is having the assurance that God is with us, that He's in control even when we are not in control, and it is choosing to trust Him in all situations that we face.

My circumstance didn't change but my heart and my mind did and my perspective of God grew bigger than any fear or worry I could ever have.

When they [the shepherds] had seen Him [Jesus], they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this Child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them... The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. (Luke 2:17-18,20)

Gaining Perspective & Remembering That Our Joy Is In Jesus:

1. Practice _____ prayers

"When I am afraid, (Inhale) I will trust You." (Exhale) (Psalm 56:3)

"My help comes from the Lord, (Inhale) the maker of Heaven and Earth." (Exhale) (Psalm 121:2)

2. Decorate your walls with what _____ says

Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

(Deuteronomy 6:7-9 NLT)

Scripture referenced: Isaiah 41:13

Bottom Line: *God is with us and He is for us.*

Questions to reflect on this week or with others:

- 1. What do you need hope for today?*
- 2. How does knowing that a Savior has been born to you change your perspective and give you hope in the midst of your circumstances.*
- 3. How can you start putting Scriptures around your house to remind you of God and what He is doing in your life? What Scriptures will you write down?*

Songs used in service: Battle Belongs (Phil Wickham), Bondade de Deus [Goodness of God] (David Quinlan), Do It Again (Elevation Worship), Trust In God (Elevation Worship)

Any prayer requests?

-----Tear Here -----

Name _____ **Date:** _____ **Email:** _____

What can we be praying for you about?